

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND
China Overland Trade Report.

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BIRTHS.

On the 16th March, at Ewo, Hankow, the wife of ARTHUR K. CRADDOCK, of a daughter.

On the 20th March, at Singapore, the wife of W. KELLIE SMITH, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

On the 21st March, at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Shanghai, by the Right Rev. Bishop Cassels, assisted by the Rev. J. B. Ost, JOHN SOWDEN SYMONS, to ANNIE GARDNER BLAIR, elder daughter of Captain and Mrs. T. JOHNS, of Shanghai.

On the 23rd March, at the Holy Trinity Cathedral, Shanghai, by the Rev. J. B. Ost, BARON HORACE GOWING, of the Imperial Maritime Revenue Cruiser Service, to MARTHA ELIZABETH RISON, daughter of JAMES EDWIN RISON, of Trowbridge, Wilts.

On the 25th March, at the British Consulate-General, Shanghai, by Sir Pelham Warren, C.M.G., H.B.'s Consul-General for China, and afterwards at the Holy Trinity Cathedral, by the Rev. W. Gilbert Walshe, CHARLES RIEVELEY, only son of the late CHAS. RIEVELEY, of Malton, Yorkshire, to MARY EDNA, second daughter of WILLIAM WILBURN MARSHALL, of San Diego, California.

DEATHS.

On the 3rd March, at the General Hospital, Shanghai, WILLIAM ALLAN, aged 46 years.

On the 24th March, at Chinkiang, Captain ALPHONZO T. FRIEND, of the Indo-China Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., aged 70 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press

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ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The German Mail arrived, per the s.s. *Prinz Heinrich*, on the 30th ult., and the French Mail of the 4th ult. is expected to arrive, per the s.s. *Annam* sometime to-day.

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

In spite of strong American opposition, China has denounced the Chinese exclusion treaty, which will expire on the 27th December next.

The Dominion Government has disallowed, on Imperial grounds, three Acts of the British Columbia Legislative Council, imposing restrictions on the Japanese.

Corea notified the Japanese representative on the 24th inst. that the resolution for the opening of Yong-ampho on a date to be announced has been sanctioned by the Emperor.

One plague case was reported in the Colony during the day ending at noon on Thursday, the 31st March, a Chinaman being found dead on some vacant ground near a building-yard at Mongkok.

The London Gazette of the 23rd ult. announced that the rank of major-general in the Army had been bestowed on Colonel Villiers Hatton, C.B., Commanding the Forces in Hongkong and China.

A Russian semi-official announcement says that the import of China teas for Russia has been arranged via London, and any gap caused by the war will be filled up by an increased import of Indian and Ceylon teas.

According to the N.-C. Daily News Tokyo correspondent, the side issues in Marquis Ito's mission to Corea include a loan to Corea of five million yen on liberal terms, and the engagement of advisers for the improvement of the Imperial Court. These will probably be arranged.

A proclamation from the Commandant of Vladivostock urges the inhabitants to remain; but only those will be allowed to stay who possess a specified amount of cereals calculated to be sufficient to last for eight months. The Banks are closed and no money is circulating.

The Kaiser—recently on a visit to King Victor Emmanuel of Italy—is reported to be in ill-health, his condition causing some anxiety. It was reported that the police at Rome discovered an Anarchist plot against the Kaiser, and took extra precautions to ensure his safety.

The Russian Press has discovered a fresh grievance against the United States in the proposal to lay a cable from Japan to Guam. This is a private proposal by a commercial cable company of old standing, which the U.S. Government has been considering with reference to its neutral obligations.

Mr. J. D. Davidson, formerly U.S. Consul-General in Formosa, and now designated for Antung, arrived in Shanghai by the P. M. S. China, together with Mr. Cheshire. Mr. Davidson will leave by the first opportunity for Chefoo, whence he expects to proceed in a gunboat to his charge in the newly-opened port.

We have received from the Colonial Secretary's Office a copy of the following telegram received from the British Consul at Anping, Formosa:—"Plague prevalent in Tainan district. None in Anping. Takow: temporary medical inspection of passengers leaving Anping for Japan only enforced from March 10th. British Consul."

The salary of H.E. Sir Henry Blake, as Governor of Colombo, was, by vote at the last Legislative Council held in Colombo, raised from 80,000 rupees to 96,000 rupees per annum, of which 18,000 rupees is to be regarded as an entertainment allowance, to be used by the Governor, or in his absence on leave, by the Officer Administering the Government.

It is reported that the Corean Court has granted a concession for the working of a gold mine at Shojo to France, and a similar concession for another mine to Germany. The report requires confirmation. There is nothing improbable in the news, however, as it is known that the Japanese authorities have raised no objection to mining concessions being made by Corea to foreign countries.

It is stated in S. Petersburg that a considerable Cossack force is operating in the East-south-east of the Japanese communications between Anju and Pingyang, apparently with the object of preventing a junction of the troops landed at Chemulpo on the West, and Gensan on the East, of Corea. It is reported that 8,000 Japanese have marched across the mountains from Gensan to Yangtok on the road to Pingyang.

Tibet Mission advices, dated the 14th March, state that terrific thunderstorms are raging south of Jelap. The post at Rorathang was struck by lightning, and all the lines and buildings burnt to the ground, together with four thousand maunds of supplies. A mule-driver was killed at Gnatong by lightning. Another large convoy has reached Tunga, having experienced a series of snowstorms. The weather was terribly cold. Twenty mule-drivers were frost-bitten.

An American paper says:—"The spectacle of the mighty Russian Empire, with its terrifying military traditions and its symbolic ravenous bear, sprawled on all fours, in a continual whine for the sympathy of the world, would be one to touch the pity of mankind were it not so essentially grotesque." The writer proceeds, like many others, to couple Count Lamsdorff's Circular with M. Muravieff's remarks, and to demonstrate the American view that Japan has the better position in facts and law.

The Straits papers publish the following London telegram, dated the 21st inst.:—"According to Reuter's Tokyo correspondent, the British Minister there refuses to endorse the application made by Mr. Hales, the Daily News correspondent, to accompany the Japanese army. The ground for the refusal is that Mr. Hales's reports from the Transvaal were slanderous to the British army. The Japanese Government requires the Ministers' endorsements to such application from all correspondents. Mr. Hales was therefore excluded."

News from S. Petersburg says that the troops between the Yalu and Pingyang have been compelled to retire on their entrenchments on the south bank of the Yalu, before the first Japanese Army of 40,000 men, whose advance guard, with artillery, has occupied and fortified a forty-five mile line, extending from Kasan to Anju, Yeng Pieng, and Pekchin. "Any further advance is improbable until the streams are clear of ice, as the retiring Russians have destroyed the bridges over five rivers on the road to Wiju." Nevertheless the advance is proceeding.

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

(Daily Press, 30th March.)

War news continues to be scanty, but two facts stand out prominently, to judge from recent telegrams. In the first place, the situation at Port Arthur is unchanged; that is to say, the place remains in possession of Russia's garrison and fleet, but the latter is unable to move more than a short distance from the harbour, and then not in sufficient strength to engage with the Japanese. The latter, however, failed in their second attempt, on Sunday last, to "bottle up" the harbour. They cannot, therefore, detach the bulk of their fleet for other purposes, but must keep a strict watch still on Port Arthur, with occasional bombardments to keep the garrison occupied. In the second place, Japan's military plans in Corea are maturing, and the First Army, 40,000 strong, has been gradually pushing North, the Russians in the meantime falling back. The Japanese appear to have come to a halt on the Cheng-cheng-gang River, having occupied and fortified a 45-mile long front, stretching from Kasan on the coast north-west of the river, through Anju and eastward. It is claimed, on St. Petersburg authority, that any further advance is improbable until the streams are clear of ice, the Russians in retiring having destroyed the bridges over five rivers on the road to Wiju. This may be so, but we should like to know the Japanese version before we judge advance impossible, in spite of the boasted Cossack attacks. That the Japanese army should have reached Anju without a struggle would have been declared equally impossible a fortnight ago. Even the Russians, however, do not seem to expect a serious struggle to occur until the Japanese reach the Yalu. At that point two great armies will be face to face over an extended area, with a river between them. The question will then resolve itself into a matter of outflanking tactics, for which the Japanese certainly must be the most favourably situated. It was thought previously that the Japanese, having been reported as landing at Taku-shan and penetrating to Feng-hwang-cheng, were already preparing to turn the Russian position on the Yalu, but either that report was incorrect or else any landing in the neighbourhood of Taku-shan must have been directed against Newchwang, not eastward. Indeed, we are warned from Chinese sources to look for a land attack on Newchwang shortly as well as one from the sea. From another side, too, Japan might try to outflank the Russians, that is from some spot on the north-eastern coast of Corea. It is said that they have already made a landing at various places between Gensan and Vladivostok, but climatic conditions have been against them. Moreover, the Russian cruiser squadron at Vladivostok has still to be reckoned with. But it is scarcely open to doubt that the disappearance of the snow and ice will be followed by vigorous Japanese action in the North-East. The question remains, what will the Russians be doing in the meanwhile? They are strengthening their lines on the Yalu, and preparing to defend Newchwang in force. Port Arthur holds out and is not cut off from Moukden, while the fleet in the harbour is at least in a condition still to come out and fight under cover of the forts. Vladivostok is yet under the rule of frost, and nothing is likely to happen there while this is so. The winter, as was anticipated, is playing a very important part in the war. When it breaks up, events may be expected to move much more rapidly than now. Newchwang will be the first to feel the

thaw, and here accordingly we must be prepared to hear first of some decisive step.

(Daily Press, 1st April.)

The steady advance of the Japanese troops in Corea is manifested in the telegrams published the last two days. They have successfully repulsed a Russian attack at Chongfu, or Chengju, as it is generally spelt on the maps. This is a town about ten miles further along the road to Wiju than Kasan, which was the advanced post of the Japanese when last reported. The telegrams vary somewhat in their accounts of the fight. The Japanese appear to have had both infantry and cavalry, though REUTER only mentions infantry. The Russians, according to the same authority, were Cossack troops; they were 600 in number, says the Japanese official account. The collision took place outside the south gate of Chengju and the Russians were driven back, the Japanese then occupying the town. The losses are variously estimated. The Russians allow 15 killed and wounded on their side; the Japanese found nine or ten of their dead on the field and in the fortifications. The Japanese official report gives five killed and twelve wounded; but REUTER says that 50 Japanese were killed, deriving his information from an unknown source. The affair was one of outposts, it is clear, and the Russian defeat is not significant, except as showing that they are not in great force south of Wiju now. The Japanese have advanced to within 70 miles of Wiju on the main road, and Wiju is but a few miles of the Yalu estuary. They seem to be moving forward at a more rapid rate than before, having by this time presumably strengthened their line of communications and established their commissariat on a sound footing. What is happening to the "considerable Cossack force" operating east-south-east of the Japanese advance, of which we were told from St. Petersburg a few days ago, we do not know. Perhaps it is limiting its attention to a Japanese movement from the direction of Gensan. Of such a manoeuvre we hear nothing whatever from the Japanese—a fact which does not, of course, prove its non-existence. It does not seem probable that there is any large force of Russians, even of Cossacks, in Corea, except possibly just south of the Yalu. If the Japanese continue to push forward with the whole of their First Army, it seems likely that they will before long accomplish their first purpose, that of clearing Korean territory of the enemy.

But when they have driven the Russians out of Corea, it may be asked, what will be their plan of campaign then? It is interesting to note that about two weeks ago the military correspondent who is writing in the *Times* on the Russo-Japanese war gave a piece of counsel to Japan which certainly merits attention. He strongly advised the Japanese, so a telegram to the Indian papers states, to regard the seizure of Port Arthur, Corea, and Vladivostok as ending Russian dominion in East Asia, and he deprecated an advance to Harbin. What Japan's actual plans are we cannot, of course, pretend to know, but we should hardly think they contemplate a perilous advance far into North Manchuria. If within reasonable time they can bring about the fall of Port Arthur and Vladivostok they will at the same time annihilate the Russian fleet, and it would be very many years before Russia could venture to meet Japan at sea again. Then, with full control of North-east Asiatic waters in Japanese hands, it is difficult to see how Russia could hope to

recover either of her strongholds; while in Corea Japan could render her position impregnable, the configuration of the country and the nearness of Japan's base of supplies making this a comparatively easy task for a military nation. Newchwang would have to be evacuated by the Russians, if not already captured by the Japanese, an event to which we may look forward unless something very startling occurs. And then?—again it may be asked. Well, we do not see what Russia could do to regain her position, or indeed to prolong the struggle, unless she could drag China into it, which all the Powers are bound to do their best to prevent. On the other hand, Port Arthur and Vladivostok may hold out and Japan may be beaten on the Yalu. Russia may make her weight tell. In that case, it remains to be seen whether the Powers, or rather certain of the Powers, can afford to see Russia predominant and Japan crushed. We believe not, and in spite of the selfishness of international politics we think that Japan will in any case reap the reward of her bravery.

HILL DISTRICT RESERVATION.

(Daily Press 29th March.)

In his recently issued book *My Colonial Service* Sir WILLIAM DES VŒUX, former Governor of this Colony, speaks with a certain amount of pride of the fact that during his administration a measure devised by himself was passed which proved "of inestimable benefit not only to the European population, but even to the richer Chinese." This was the European District Reservation Ordinance of 1888. At that time, as Sir WILLIAM DES VŒUX writes, the high rents obtainable from Chinese-inhabited houses, crowded together as close as possible, had caused a continually increasing intrusion of such houses upon the quarter of the town formerly occupied exclusively by Europeans. "Little by little, but at a gradually increasing rate, the Europeans were being, so to speak, pushed out of the town of Victoria." It seemed as if Europeans would shortly only have the alternatives of living under the unhealthy conditions engendered by the overcrowding of a neighbourhood by Chinese-inhabited houses or of residing in the hill district at a heavy expense to their pockets. So the Ordinance—or rather Ordinances, for there were two dealing with the matter, Nos. 16 and 26 of 1888—were passed. Nevertheless, a large portion of the area intended to be reserved has since practically been absorbed by Chinese, and it has been brought vividly to the attention of European householders that the process threatens to go on and deprive them of their stronghold, if we may call it so, at the Peak. Consequently a petition has been got up by owners and occupiers of houses in the Hill district, and the Bill which was read for the first time at the Legislative Council meeting yesterday was the outcome of this agitation. The petitioners base their case upon the question of health, and rightly so. They argue that, if the absorbing process mentioned above extends to the Peak very serious results to the health of Europeans and their families will follow. "There being no other place for them to go to," the petition runs, "they would then be driven to reside below, where the conditions are highly prejudicial to their health. The Hill district is undeniably the healthiest part of the Colony for all those to whom life in the tropics presents the disadvantage of an unnatural environment; in fact, it is the only accessible

"part of the Colony which is fitted to be a healthy residential quarter for people accustomed to a temperate climate." The Chinese, on the other hand, are living here in their native climate, and do not suffer from the oppressive heat of the lower levels during the summer months as Europeans do. To show how pressing is the need in the European community for securing dwellings at the Peak, the petitioners urge the fact that the rent of houses there is nearly treble what it was ten years ago, in spite of the very great increase in the number of houses in the interval. But the number of reasonably available sites for houses in the Peak district is limited, and very few sites remain for additional houses. The petition asks that this small part of the Colony be reserved for those who cannot live in equal well-being elsewhere, and claims that the future welfare of Hongkong and its value to the Empire depend to a large extent on the well-being of the European section, whose health it is therefore essential to preserve. We do not see how this can be gainsaid, and we trust that the prayer will be granted. The Chinese have hitherto shown no desire to occupy houses in the Peak district, and European families have consequently not suffered from the competition of Chinese in the part of the Colony most resembling their natural environment. But the fear has grown in them, inspired by the gradual ascent of Chinese houses from the lower levels upwards, that in the not very remote future Chinese competition for Peak residences may arise, and in the limited available area numbers of houses may cease to be open for Europeans. Then they will be reduced to one only of the two alternatives spoken of by Sir WILLIAM DES VŒUX and mentioned by us above, namely, that of living with their families under unhealthy conditions. It is impossible not to recognise that this will be fraught with evil to the welfare of the Colony—"the welfare," as the petition states, "of its inhabitants as a whole, and its consequent value to the Empire."

PLAGUE IN HONGKONG IN 1903.

(Daily Press, 28th March.)

The report of Dr. W. W. PEARSE, Acting Medical Officer of Health, on the plague epidemic during the first seven months of last year is of an unusually elaborate character, even in a Colony where we get such painstaking reports as Hongkong. With its appendices, tables, etc., it occupies no less than one hundred pages of the *Government Gazette*. It is obviously impossible to do justice in the course of a single article to the work which has been involved in the preparation of such a document, and we shall only here draw attention to a few of the salient points, leaving other details to be dealt with later on. The total number of known plague cases in 1903 was 1,363, of which 1,245 were Chinese, 43 Indian, 34 European, 22 Portuguese, 14 Japanese, and 5 of other nationalities. The number of known deaths was 1,206, of which 1,161 were Chinese, 4 European, 21 Indian, 9 Portuguese, 9 Japanese, and 2 of other nationalities. Thus the death-rate works out at 8.4 per cent., the smallest since the outbreak of plague in 1894. The following are the death-rates per cent for each epidemic:

Year	1894	1896	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903
Death-rate per cent	92.7	89.5	89	96.1	95.5	95.2	97.5	88.4

For the various nationalities the death-rates in 1903 were as follows:—Chinese, 93.25; European 11.76; Indians, 48.83; Portuguese, 40.90; Japanese, 64.28; others, 40. The

Hospital death-rate was only 60.6, the lowest on record since the first outbreak of plague in Hongkong. With regard to the types of plague in 1903, a complete record does not exist, but the return from the public mortuary gives the following figures:—Bubonic, 603; septic, 335; pneumonic, 45; total, 983. When we turn to the question of sex, we find that the Chinese and non-Chinese figures give curiously different results. Only 16.9 per cent. of the non-Chinese sufferers were female, the female population in the non-Chinese community being computed at about 30 per cent. Among the Chinese, 36.4 per cent. of the cases were females, though the Chinese female population was only 27.1 per cent. of the Chinese community when last reckoned. Cases among children, the report notes, showed a very high figure for females, 165 females and 155 males under the age of 15 having been attacked. Dr. PEARSE points out that Chinese servant-girls, who are mostly between the ages of 5 and 15, might be expected to be attacked more often than others, being worse fed and lodged. From 15 to 60 years the percentage of female cases diminishes considerably. European females, in contradistinction to their Chinese sisters, show the lowest figure of all. Only 5 cases occurred among them during the year, and none were fatal. But it cannot be said that the male European cases were alarming. There were 29 cases with 4 deaths; of the 4, one was imported from Canton, one was a broken-down man living in the native quarter, one was known as a heavy drinker, and the fourth did not die of plague but was found to be suffering from it after falling into a dock and killing himself. In short, the European plague epidemic was very mild, in spite of the number of cases.

Perhaps more interesting than the actual statistics of the epidemic is what Dr. PEARSE has to say with regard to the causes of the spread of the disease. He concludes his report with the remark:—"I am inclined to think that overcrowding, with its vitiation of the atmosphere of rooms and the intimate personal contact which is a result of such overcrowding, is probably the greatest factor in the spreading of a plague epidemic." What then is overcrowding, it may be asked. Hongkong residents are well aware of the notoriety which the city of Victoria has gained for its sins in this matter. Dr. PEARSE writes as follows:—"Strictly speaking, overcrowding has only an indirect relation to cubic capacity. An overcrowded house is one in which there are too many people for the amount of fresh air passing through the house per hour. A building with its windows shut will be overcrowded before a building well ventilated. The accepted standard of 1,000 cubic feet per head is merely arrived at because air can in houses of a temperate climate be changed three times an hour without draught, 3,000 cubic feet of fresh air per hour being the amount required by each adult to maintain health. In a warm climate air may be changed more quickly in a room without causing draught and so less space per head would suffice. But everyone who has seen the houses of the Chinese in Hongkong must be struck with the fact that efficient ventilation is impossible. There are no fire-places, the rooms are long and narrow, the window at the front obstructed by verandahs. Streets are narrow, back-lanes and yards are worse. The situation of the City itself tends to accentuate this state of things." This state of affairs, as our readers know, Hongkong is trying now to remedy by the Public

Health and Buildings Bill. But of course it must be long before the effect of such an extensive measure can be felt. This year we have been happily free from a plague epidemic so far, although three months of the year are nearly gone. We must not therefore boast that we have already struck a fatal blow at the disease which has cost us so many lives and so much money. We are only starting the campaign. We must carry it on to a successful conclusion, and that will take many years. But we have at least learnt how we have erred worst against the laws of health and so invited the presence of the most terrible of all scourges which afflict the East and at one time afflicted the West also—at that time, namely, when sanitary principles were unheeded or unknown. We cannot plead that those principles are unknown now, and we have therefore imposed upon us the duty of observing them ourselves and enforcing them upon all who dwell with us in this Colony.

(Daily Press, 31st March.)

In Dr. W. W. PEARSE's plague report for 1903 that section which deals with plague in rats and with the relations of human and rat-plague is specially interesting. Hongkong is a place where considerable attention has been paid to the subject of these relations and all the recent reports have dealt with it. Rat-collecting has been a great feature of the anti-plague campaigns, and there is an organised rat-catching staff in the Colony. A certain amount of light is thrown on the methods of this staff by Dr. PEARSE's report, and it is not very satisfactory to read of them. During the whole of the 1903 epidemic a systematic collection of rats was made throughout Victoria and Kowloon, the rats being afterwards bacteriologically examined at the Public Mortuary. A price of five cents a rat was paid throughout the year, and between 90,000 and 100,000 rats were caught. But Dr. PEARSE says that it is highly probable that a great number of the rats collected by the rat-catchers were imported into the city. Many of the rats "caught" on the Kowloon side, too, were suspected of having been brought across from Victoria, the rat-catching coolies claiming their share of the rats imported into Hongkong for the sake of the bonus of five cents from the Government. Thus it seems that a certain amount of public money was wasted on fraudulent coolies, while the value of the deductions from the rats examined was necessarily lessened by the importations. As the report says, it is not possible to make any definite statement regarding the influence of rat-plague on human plague owing to the probability of this importation.

Nevertheless a certain number of remarks are made by Dr. PEARSE on the subject. Curves were drawn up showing the weekly rise and fall in the percentage of plague-infected rats among those examined in the Public Mortuary and the weekly number of human plague cases. These curves are published with the report in the *Gazette*, and from them it may be seen that both rise to their highest points about the same time. The first notable rise in rat-infection was in the sixth and seventh weeks of the year, and human plague made a sudden rise in the sixth week, though falling again next week. Similarly the ninth and tenth weeks were marked by a rise in rat-infection and the ninth to eleventh weeks by a rise in human plague; and the twelfth and thirteenth weeks were marked by a rise in rat-infection, and the twelfth, thirteenth, and still more fourteenth weeks by a rise in human plague. Then a drop in rat-infec-

tion in the fourteenth and fifteenth week is accompanied by a drop in human plague in the latter week. The figures do not continue to correspond so closely after this, the human curve reaching its maximum with a rapid jump in the twenty-first week, while the rat-infection curve is not at its highest until the twenty-fourth week; and the human curve drops far more rapidly toward the end of the epidemic. Commenting on the behaviour of the curves, Dr. PEARSE says that the epidemic of plague among rats evidently follows very much the same curve as does the human epidemic, but it seems to begin earlier and to endure longer, as though there were some factor or factors in the shaping of the epidemic which affected the rats earlier, and of which the influence passed off later from rats than in the case of human beings.

The relation between infected rats found in buildings and human cases of plague in the same buildings could not be very closely studied. The majority of rats collected were reported as found in the streets. The tenant of a shop has no mind, as the report says, to allow the authorities to discover rats in his shop if he can avoid it. Of the total of 2,579 plague-infected rats caught in the City of Victoria from January to June, 1903, only 43—1.66 per cent.—were returned as found in infected houses, and of these only 27 were brought in by the rat-catching coolies. In a table of houses in which rat and human plague were both known to occur, only five cases show synchronous rat and human plague, the rats being found during the cleansing operations following the report of the human plague in each house. Dr. PEARSE rightly remarks that "these figures are interesting, but it is disappointing that they are so small," and that, were the people willing to allow all rats caught in their houses to be returned as such, more light would be thrown on the relationship of the rat to human plague. But unfortunately the people will not put themselves to inconvenience for the public good, and this attitude, coupled with the more than suspected dishonesty of the coolies employed in rat-catching, deprives the investigators of a sufficient amount of evidence to establish any definite statement. We presume that there is no way of checking the coolies, or else it would be tried. It is most unsatisfactory that they should be in a position to cheat the Government and rob the public money.

HONGKONG JOTTINGS.

Daily Press 28th March.

Sir Matthew Nathan, our new Governor, is, I take it, now in England, as he intended bidding farewell to the Gold Coast last month. So very little is known to us in Hongkong about Sir Matthew, that we naturally read with avidity any news we may observe in the home papers containing a mention of his name. In one of the latest London papers to hand I notice a paragraph concerning him which may be taken as indicating in some measure the manner of man our new Governor is. Sandwiched as it is between the French Colony of the Ivory Coast and the German Colony of Togoland, the Gold Coast Colony is not one of the easiest colonies in the British Empire to govern, but the fact that Sir Matthew leaves the Colony in most amicable relations with its neighbours, and with peace reigning at Kumasi and in the Hinterland, must be regarded as an obvious tribute to his successful administration during a somewhat difficult period. The paragraph which I have culled from a home paper mentions that at Christmas—news takes a long time coming by mail from Accra—Sir Matthew invited the Governors of the neighbouring

colonies to spend a few days with him. The French Governor accepted the invitation, but the German Governor was unfortunately unable to do so because the surf prevailing on the coast of Togoland was so dangerous that he could not risk going through it. The Governor of the French Ivory Coast spent five days with Sir Matthew, during which a long programme of festivities was carried out, and his Excellency was naturally very pleased with his reception on British soil, while the popular view was, of course, that the good feeling which these international courtesies brought about redounded to the advantage of both colonies.

Why does the Public Works Department permit contractors and others to disfigure some of the most beautiful parts of the island? They are allowed to dump rubbish in all sorts of places, and the sides of the paths at the Peak are frequently so defaced. Perhaps, however, the most notable instance is the eastern side of Garden Road near St. Patrick's Hall, which is piled high with *débris* and loose soil. This rubbish-heap is a blot on the landscape, and spoils the approach to the Gardens, Government House, and Kennedy Road. Surely the time has come when this bank should be finally made and kept in order? If left until the heavy rains come a quantity of the soil may be swept down into the stone channel, and choke up the arches lower down.

The Hongkong High Level Tramway Co. have been good enough to accept a hint before to-day, for which I thank them and desire to express my appreciation of that open mind that is ready quickly to see reason. I hope they will not think me too prolific in suggestions if I say that a regulation requesting owners of dogs travelling in the car to take them on a lead or chain might with advantage be introduced. I am a lover of dogs, and have no objection to their presence in the car, but as a measure of safety, especially in the case of young dogs, I consider they ought not to be allowed on board without chain or leash.

It was to be regretted that General Villiers Hatton did not extend his inspection of the Volunteers on Saturday so as to include the Headquarters. The housing accommodation of the Corps is miserably inadequate as regards both drilling facilities and comfort for the members of the Volunteer body. The building itself is out of date, antiquated, and ready to be pulled down and replaced by a modern structure. There has always been a cry that Hongkong men do not take the same interest in Volunteering that is shown at home. A Headquarters which would afford some attraction for the members of the Corps might go a long way towards the removal of the apathy complained of.

We all grumble, and with very good reason, at the ever-increasing cost of living in Hongkong. We grumble especially over the disproportionate item of rent in the domestic balance-sheet, but in the matter of food it still seems that we are better off than some European communities in Japan. This statement will conflict, I know, with popular ideas in Hongkong, but the *Japan Mail* supplies the proof in a comparative table of market prices of butcher's meat in Hongkong and Yokohama. Here are some of the items, the column headed "sen" being Yokohama prices and that headed "cts." being Hongkong prices:—

	sen.	cts.
Stirloin, Roast	per lb. 34	17
Rip. Roast	30	17
Corned Beef	30	17
Soup Meat	24	13
Suet	22	17
Veal Chop	32	18
Mutton, Leg and Chop	52	24
Shoulder	42	20

There is this to be said about the published market prices in Hongkong: purchasers are seldom able to buy at those rates. And there is this other comment to be made: the price of butcher's meat in Hongkong, but for the existence of a Ring, might be cheaper than it actually is. Comparing market prices to-day with those prevailing in the same month of 1900, butcher's meat seems to have increased about 3 cents per pound, but rents have gone up, goodness knows how much!

With the nearing completion of the low-level tramways, further tramway enterprises are in the air at present. A tramway to Mirs Bay is talked about, and the mere rumour should serve to stir up the concessionaries of the railway route from Kowloon to Canton. The Glenealy gap high-level tramway project is also on the *tapis*, and will take shape soon it is to be hoped. A scheme for a tramway round the island may also be looked for at no very distant date.

When walking round by Pokfulam the other day, I noticed that the Fathers of the French Convent, which is at present being structurally enlarged, have fitted up an ingenious arrangement for conveying the building materials from the seashore to the Convent. It is an endless rope worked by a small engine, and every twenty yards or so the rope carries a small basket into which bricks mortar, etc., are put directly from the junks and taken up the hill. The saving of labour is immense. I am told that the scheme is the work of one of the reverend Fathers, who is a particularly clever engineer.

I think it would be a good idea to work up an article to be entitled "Hongkong Farmyards." It is not at all uncommon to see a herd of goats, if that is the right expression, grazing, or, rather, pumeloe-skinning, along the City slopes; while an Adam-like Chinaman driving an ugly-looking water-buffalo and calf along the main thoroughfares is an everyday occurrence. Chickens and the like, too, are reared at different parts of the City.

BANYAN.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on the 28th ult. in the Council Chamber. Present:—

HIS EXCELLENCY THE OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT, F. H. MAY, C.M.G.

HIS EXCELLENCY MAJOR-GENERAL VILLIERS HATTON, C.B. (Commanding the Troops).
Hon. A. M. THOMSON (Acting Colonial Secretary).

Hon. Sir H. S. BERKELEY (Attorney-General).

Hon. L. A. M. JOHNSTON (Acting Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. A. W. BREWIN (Registrar-General).

Hon. L. A. W. BARNES-LAWRENCE (Harbour Master).

Hon. W. CHATHAM (Director of Public Works).

Hon. Sir C. P. CHATER, C.M.G.

Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, C.M.G.

Hon. WEI A YUK.

Hon. GERSHOM STEWART.

Mr. R. F. JOHNSTON (Acting Clerk of Councils).

FINANCIAL.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table Financial Minutes (Nos. 19 and 20) and moved that they be referred to the Finance Committee.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

EMPLOYMENT OF PILOTS.

The HARBOUR MASTER moved the first reading of a Bill entitled An Ordinance to provide for and regulate the Employment of Pilots.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The objects and reasons attached to this Bill are as follows:—This Bill is designed with the object of exercising certain control over the existing so-called Pilots of the Colony, and thus establish a properly constituted Pilot Service. While no natural difficulty presents itself in the navigation of these waters it is a well-known fact that men are largely employed for the purpose, in vessels using the Port, though doubtless also the masters are glad of their services for berthing their vessels, etc. Such being the case, it has been deemed expedient that desirable persons only should be employed as pilots, if duly qualified. This Bill makes provision for the same, while it safeguards the service being one of option to the employers.

HILL DISTRICT RESERVATION.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill entitled An Ordinance for the Reservation of a Residential area in the Hill District.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The objects and reasons of this Bill are as follows:—This measure has as its object the reservation of that portion of the Island of Hongkong commonly known as "the Peak" as a place of residence for persons other than Chinese. The reservation of this district is desirable in order that a healthy place of residence may be preserved for all those who are accustomed to a temperate climate and to whom life in the tropics presents the disadvantage of an unnatural environment.

BANISHMENT.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend Ordinance No. 8 of 1882 entitled "The Banishment and Conditional Pardons Ordinance, 1882."

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

This Bill is to empower the Governor in Council, in the interests of order and good government, to remove from the Colony persons who after they have acquired by naturalization the status of British subjects become a source of danger to the peace, order and good government of the Colony. The Bill provides that in case of the banishment of any naturalized person his status as a British subject shall *ipso facto* be suspended or cancelled as the case may be. Power is reserved to His Majesty to disallow any suspension or cancellation of naturalization. Somewhat similar legislation has been adopted in the Straits Settlements. The object of the Bill is the prevention of crime in the New Territories. There are in that portion of the Colony many bad characters who go about in armed gangs robbing the peaceable inhabitants. There have of late been numerous cases in which inhabitants of the New Territory have been convicted of armed robberies on junks and boats and of robberies with violence in the night-time on land and afloat with and without arms. It is desirable that power should be taken to banish, if necessary, such persons after they have undergone imprisonment. There are also cases in which persons guilty of the serious crimes mentioned, though well known, escape punishment on account of the difficulty, for fear of reprisals, in getting witnesses to come forward against them in the Law Courts. As the law stands such persons, though a constant menace to peace and good order, cannot be banished if naturalized subjects by operation of the Lease of the New Territories or otherwise. The present Bill gives power to deal by way of banishment with such bad characters, and it is believed that when they learn that they may be banished from the Territory the effect for good upon them will be considerable.

BILLS POSTPONED.

The only other items on the orders of the day were the second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend the Prepared Opium Ordinance, 1891, and committee on the Bill entitled An Ordinance to enable effect to be given in this Colony to a Convention signed the fifth day of March nineteen hundred and two in relation to sugar.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL asked the permission of the house to allow these items to be postponed till a latter sitting of the Council.

This permission was granted.

The Council adjourned *sine die*.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held after the Council, the Acting Colonial Secretary (Hon. A. M. Thomson) presiding.

LAND COURT.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$13,801 in accordance with the revised Estimate for the Land Court, New Territory:—

Personal Emoluments, ...	\$10,881
Other Charges, ...	2,920

Total, \$13,801

A return was laid on the table containing the revised estimate for 1904, showing the excess over the original estimate to be \$7,46.80.

The CHAIRMAN explained that when the estimates for the present year were made it was thought that six months would be sufficient in which to finish the work. Since then it had been ascertained that there was still a large amount of work to do, chiefly in the way of registering and revising. The deciding of the titles had mostly been finished. The work was now being pushed on as fast as possible, and it was hoped it would be got through in a short time.

The vote was passed.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$1,895.84 in aid of the vote Public Works Recurrent, Miscellaneous Works, to clear off all liabilities in connection with the construction of the Victoria Hospital.

The CHAIRMAN said this vote was necessary because the work had not been completed last year when the necessary provision was made for it.

The vote was passed.

There was no other business.

THE WAR.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS]

LONDON, 28th March.

Admiral Makaroff has cabled to St. Petersburg that the Japanese again attempted on Sunday morning to block the entrance to Port Arthur harbour. Four steamers went convoyed by six Japanese torpedo-boats, but the Russian gunfire sunk the steamers, and the entrance remains clear.

LONDON, 30th March.

General Mishtchenko reports that he attacked a body of Japanese infantry at Chengju, north of the Cheng-cheng-gang River, Corea, on Monday last, and retired after ninety minutes' fighting having 15 killed and wounded. The Japanese loss is not stated.

LONDON, 30th March.

The British and United States Governments are taking no action with regard to Russian procedure at Newchwang. The British Government has requested Russia to protect British subjects.

Shanghai, 31st March.

The Russian gunboat "Mandjour" has been completely dismantled, and the Japanese cruiser waiting for her has now sailed.

JAPANESE OFFICIAL DESPATCHES.

The Japanese Consul informed us on the 25th ult. that he had received the following official telegram:—

"Tokyo, 25th March, 12.10 a.m.

"Admiral Togo reports that his fleet, consisting of the combined squadrons, operating as previously arranged, together with both sections of our destroyer flotilla, made a demonstration against Port Arthur on the night of the 21st and morning of 22nd. The destroyers reconnoitred the approaches to the harbour, both sections coming under the enemy's fire without sustaining any damage.

"At 8 a.m. on the 22nd our main fleet, with part of the cruiser squadron, approached Port Arthur, while a squadron was despatched to Pigeon Bay. Our battleships, the *Fuji* and *Yashima*, opened an indirect bombardment on the inner harbour. During the engagement the enemy's fleet gradually came out of the harbour and, when we ceased our fire on the town, it consisted of five battleships, four cruisers, and ten torpedo-destroyers.

"The enemy's ships cruised about under protection of the guns of the forts, and seemed as if they were inviting us to approach. The enemy's forts and fleet fired on us at long range, most of their shells falling round the *Fuji*. Our ships, however, sustained no hurt. Our fleet withdrew at 3 p.m."

"RUNNING THE GAUNTLET."

The s.s. *Rosley*, Capt. D. M. Robertson, arrived from Penarth on the 25th ult. with 6,400 tons of coal for the Japanese Government, having had a very exciting passage through the Red Sea. Some 14 hours after leaving Suez, at two o'clock in the morning, she passed through a Russian squadron. A destroyer followed her up for some distance, and had a good look at her, but eventually turned tail. She arrived safely at Perim on the 9th inst.

JAPANESE OFFICIAL NEWS.

The Japanese Consul on the 30th ult. sent us a copy of the following official telegram received by him in the morning of the same day:—

"Tokyo, 29th March, 3.35 p.m.

"Admiral Togo reports that the second attempt to block the entrance of Port Arthur was made at 3.30 a.m. on the 27th inst., when four vessels, escorted by a flotilla of torpedo-destroyers and boats, succeeded in approaching to within two miles of the entrance of the harbour before being discovered by the enemy. At the time searchlights were sweeping the water, and as soon as our presence became known a heavy fire was directed upon us by the forts on both banks and by the guardships. In spite of this the vessels succeeded in getting into the inner roadstead, where the *Chiyo-maru* dropped anchor about half a cable's length from the beach on the west of Golden Hill, and was successfully sunk by her crew. The *Fukui-maru* was steered to the left of this vessel, and when about to drop anchor was struck by a fish-torpedo from the enemy and sunk. The *Tahiko-maru* anchored on the left of the *Fukui-maru*, and was sunk by her crew, while the *Yoneyama*, which had crept up between the *Chiyo-maru* and *Fukui-maru*, after coming into collision with the stern of a Russian destroyer, came to anchor in the middle of the roadstead, where she was struck by a fish torpedo from the enemy, which caused her to heel over and drift on to the left bank.

"Admiral Togo regrets that this desperate attempt to block the entrance of Port Arthur was not entirely successful, inasmuch as a navigable channel exists between the hulks of the *Tahiko-maru* and the *Yoneyama-maru*. He further reports the following casualties on the four vessels:—Killed:—Lieutenant-Commander Takio Hirose, one midshipman, and two of the crew. Wounded (seriously):—Sub-lieutenant Shimada; (slightly), Lieutenant Masaki, Chief Engineer Kurita, and six of the crew. The crews of the vessels were taken on board of the destroyers and torpedo-boats.

"Two torpedo-boats, the *Aotaka* and *Tsubame*, when within a mile of the entrance of the port met a Russian destroyer. A heavy fire was kept up on both sides, the enemy's vessel sustaining serious damage to her engines, clouds of steam being seen to rise up from her as she steered away.

"It is reported that while our torpedo-boats were returning from their mission, what appeared to be a Russian warship was observed lying close under Golden Hill, having apparently sustained serious damage in one of the fleet engagements.

"A heavy fire was directed upon our destroyers and torpedo-boats until daylight, but no damage was caused."

A LAND FIGHT.

Mr. Noma has also communicated to us the following translation of a despatch received from the Minister of Foreign Affairs:—

"Tokyo, 30th March, 10.30 a.m.

"It is officially reported that on the 28th inst. a detachment of Japanese cavalry and infantry encountered the enemy outside the south gate of Chongfu. An engagement took place, the Russians being driven from the city. The enemy, numbering about 600, retired to Wiju.

"Casualties:—Japanese: Lieut. Kano and four men killed, Capt. Kurokawa and eleven men wounded; no losses were sustained by the infantry. Two of the enemy were found dead on the field, and subsequently seven or eight of their slain were discovered in the fortifications. Their dead were carefully removed on horses and ambulances during the progress of the fight, and in spite of the Japanese fire they were observed carrying

away two Russians, apparently officers. Bloodstained bandages were found scattered on the ground, and by these it is surmised that the Russian casualties were, at least, equal to those of the Japanese.

"The Japanese entered into possession of the city."

NORTHERN TELEGRAMS.

The following telegrams are from Northern contemporaries:—

Seoul, 15th March.

The Korean authorities in Pingyang province report to the Government that the Russian military officers there have warned them that if Korea does not maintain strict neutrality during the war, but aids Japan by supplying the Japanese troops with provisions, etc., Russia will open hostilities against Korea.—*Meinichi.*

Tientsin, 16th March.

The Liaohs will be free of ice some time between the 20th and 24th inst., and it is expected that the British and American warships will leave Inkao on or about the 3rd prox. The Russian gun-boat *Sivoutch* (? *Bobre*) at Inkao has taken down her masts. It is believed that the Russians intend to use her where she lies as a fort. The British subjects at Inkao have sent their families to Tientsin. These refugees report that the general belief at Inkao is that the Japanese troops will take possession of the place as soon as the river is free of ice. The mounted bandits are waiting for the arrival of the Japanese, to start destroying the railway. There is only a small Russian garrison at Inkao; and most of the men return to Giukaton in the evening.—*Asahi.*

Tokyo, 23rd March.

The Japanese infantry at first intended to cross the Tao Mun Kiang from Ching Hsing and other places thereabout in Ham Kiong Tao, Corea, thence to pass beyond Vladivostok, and attack Harbin, but, owing to the difficulty of the route, they were compelled to return to Pingyang, Anjou, etc. Again, as regards the Hai Tsen Wei engagement, the intention of the Japanese was to make a landing; after a slight attack, they immediately proceeded to the North of Vladivostok, where they succeeded in finding a landing. But on account of the large accumulation of snow they had to return to their ships.—*Sinwenpao.*

Tokyo, 25th March.

In reference to the Parliamentary papers laid on the table of the House, the enlightened private sections of members are amazed at the striking moderation of the Japanese proposals. But for the final decision of the Japanese Government, there would have been general disappointment. The Government, it is felt, were altogether too patient, and if a final conclusion had been come to on the terms Japan offered, it would have been more ruinous than war.—*N.C.D.N.*

Tokyo, 25th March.

Admiral Baron Yamamoto, Minister of the Navy, made a speech in the House of Representatives this afternoon on the naval movements and naval activity since October last, which, he said, had accompanied perfectly the diplomatic developments. The Navy, he said, had still a hard task to undergo to accomplish the end desired. Baron Yamamoto was loudly cheered, and a most cordial vote of thanks to the Navy was unanimously adopted.—*N.C.D.N.*

RUSSIAN ACTION AT NEWCHWANG.

We received from the Colonial Secretary's Office on the 28th ult. a copy of the following telegram from His Britannic Majesty's Consul at Newchwang, dated 26th March:—

"Russian military authorities will allow vessels enter port daytime only, between six and six, vessels must stop at buoy ten and half miles below fort for examination."

CONTRABAND OF WAR.

The following extract from the *London Gazette* of the 19th February was published in a *Government Gazette Extraordinary* yesterday:—

Foreign Office, February 19th, 1904.

His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs has received the following telegram from Sir Claude MacDonald, His Majesty's Minister at Tokyo, in reply to inquiries addressed to him respecting the intentions of the Japanese Government in regard to contraband of war and the establishment of Prize Courts:—

"Notification published 10th February. Contraband of war divided into two classes:—

"First Class—Military weapons, ammunition, explosives, and materials including lead, saltpetre, sulphur, &c, and machinery for making them, uniforms Naval and Military, military accoutrements, armour-plated machinery and materials for construction or equipment of ships of war, and all other goods which, though not coming under this list, are intended solely for use in war. Above-mentioned articles will be regarded as contraband of war when passing through or destined for enemy's army, navy or territory.

"Second Class—Provisions, drinks, horses, harness, fodder, vehicles, coal, timber, coin, gold and silver bullion, and materials for construction of telegraphs, telephones, railways. Above-mentioned articles will be regarded as contraband of war when destined for enemy's army or navy, or in such cases where being goods arriving at enemy's territory there is reason to believe they are intended for use of enemy's army or navy. Exception has been made as regards articles manifestly intended for use of vessel carrying them.

"A Prize Court has been established at Sasebo with appeal to Tokyo."

RUSSIA AND NEWCHWANG.

A telegram has been received by the Hongkong Government, from His Britannic Majesty's Consul at Newchwang. It reads as follows:—"Russian military authorities will allow vessels to enter the port at daytime only, between the hours of 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. Vessels must stop at the buoy five-and-a-half miles below the Fort for examination."

THE "MANDJOUR" CASE AGAIN.

A Peking despatch quoted by the *N.C. Daily News* states that the Japanese Minister, Mr. Uchida, has informed the Waiwupu that his Government is not satisfied at the way the dismantling of the *Mandjour* in Shanghai has been conducted, in other words, it is complained that only the breech-blocks of the big guns and the ammunition have been so far taken out of the vessel, while other most important parts of the machinery, etc, on board have not been touched. Under the circumstances therefore the Japanese Government do not consider that the *Mandjour* has been actually made harmless.

This, no doubt, is the reason why the Japanese cruiser *Akitsuishima* still remains at Shanghai.

JAPAN DURING THE WAR.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT]

Tokyo, 15th March.

We have just received the official report of Admiral Togo of the last bombardment of Port Arthur. The report is dated the 11th instant. It appears that a council was held on the evening of the 9th, as a result of which the united squadron moved to attack the enemy. At midnight on the 9th, two divisions of destroyers were sent on in advance. The one which consisted of the *Saganami* and *Akebono*, proceeding to the harbor entrance, found no ships there and remained on watch during the night; the other division, which was made up of the *Asashio*, *Kasumi*, and *Akatsuki*, visiting various previously appointed places, where they laid a special kind of mine, called in the official report a "machine" mine. While they were engaged in this occupation, a search-light suddenly flashed from one of the forts on the snow-clad hills, which was immediately followed by the booming of guns, as the forts opened fire on the hurrying destroyers. The Russian fire, however, was remarkably bad, and they did not once succeed in hitting their mark. No sooner had the Japanese craft succeeded in laying their mines, in a locality which appears to be a good deal to the south of Port Arthur, than a squadron of six Russian destroyers came into sight, rounding Lao-ti-shan, a point at the most southerly extremity of the Port Arthur Peninsula. These immediately attacked the Japanese boats, which, though outnumbered two to one, did not hesitate to engage them. The fight, which lasted for twenty minutes, was a severe one, the combatants firing at point-blank range, their sides touching. The boiler of one of the Russians burst, fire broke out on another, amidst which they retreated, four returning to the place they had come from, and two more heading northwards, evidently intending

to take refuge in the harbour of Port Arthur. In the engagement the Japanese losses amounted to seven killed and eight wounded, including the chief engineer of the *Kasumi*. The *Akatsuki* suffered most; one of her main steam-pipes was struck by a shot, the escape of steam from which scalded four men to death. All of the destroyers of the detachment remain fit for service.

The division stationed at the mouth of the harbour was about to leave in the early morning when two of the enemy's destroyers were seen heading for the entrance. These were the two flying from the previous engagement. The division instantly put about, cut them off, and then commenced an action lasting for an hour, during which the Russians suffered heavily. One of the destroyers succeeded in escaping, but the other, the *Stereguschki*, when endeavouring to obtain shelter close under the land, was captured by the *Saganami* under the fire of the land batteries. The *Saganami* took her in tow but the waves were running high, and she was seen to be sinking, so that the Japanese cast her loose, and endeavoured to take off her crew. This was no easy matter under the heavy fire the people on shore continued to pour into the two boats, and they only succeeded in rescuing four men, when the near approach of the cruisers *Novik* and *Bayan*, which had meanwhile emerged from the harbour, forced them to draw off. It would have gone badly with this division of destroyers, but fortunately, the cruisers forming the advance guard of the Japanese fleet appeared over the horizon, on which the *Novik* and *Bayan* retired again into shelter. The cruisers took up their position close to the harbour's mouth, and by 3 a.m. the main body of the squadron had closed up, and taking up a position under Lao-ti-shan, bombarded the forts and harbour until 1.40 p.m. The division of cruisers immediately in front of the harbour observed the results of this fire, and report that the damage done to the enemy was great. The Russian hill-forts occasionally answered, but did not succeed in inflicting the smallest damage on the Japanese ships.

Meanwhile another squadron of cruisers had proceeded to Talien Bay, at the head of which Dalny is situated, and bombarded the island of Sanshantao, at the entrance of the bay. All the buildings on the island were destroyed, and another account emanating from Chefoo says not a building was left intact in Dalny. At the time this bombardment was being carried on the *Takasago* and *Chihaya* searched the coast on the west of the Liaotung peninsula, but saw no signs of the enemy. They observed in Pigeon Bay, where she had been sunk on the 25th February by the Japanese cruisers, the wreck of the destroyer *Vnushitelni* lying with her masts and funnel out of water. The various detachments ceased fire at 2 p.m. and returned to their base. Where this rendezvous is situated is a mystery. It is reported that the return fire of the forts grows feebler and feebler with each succeeding attack. There are rumours going about that all the ammunition stored at Vladivostok has been transferred to Port Arthur, but this does not seem very likely.

On the 6th inst. the Northern squadron attacked Vladivostok. Shortly after midday the Japanese entered the Bosphorus Strait leading to the harbour. The weather was bitterly cold, the thermometer registering 21 degrees below zero. The intense cold made it impossible to expose any part of the person, and, if any spray came on deck it was immediately frozen. The ice was heaped in huge masses to a distance of about 6000 metres from the shore. The mountains were covered with snow, the only coloured object discernible being the lighthouse on Askold Island. The leading ship broke her way through the ice, the others following in the canal so formed. The hills lining both sides of the passage are covered with forts; but choosing that battery known to be the weakest, the fleet headed directly towards it, and bombarded it, without however, eliciting any reply. There were absolutely no signs of life beyond a few soldiers signalling with the wireless telegraph. Having kept up the bombardment for some time, and seeing that the enemy did not reply, the Japanese squadron at 2.40 p.m. withdrew. No sooner had they gone when a ship emerged from the port, it is supposed for the purpose of reconnoi-

tring. She resembled the *Bogatyr*. It was presently seen that she was followed by four other ships. The Japanese, deeming it unwise to remain in the position in which they then were, retired until dawn on the 7th, when, separating into two divisions, one steamed slowly to America Bay—at the mouth of the Suchan River, to the north of the Askold Islands—and searched it, whilst the other rapidly made the circuit of the forts between the Bosphorus Strait and the Askolds, where the two divisions reunited about 9 a.m. and again approached the forts. As these, however, gave no sign of life, the squadron steamed down the coast to the south-west, visiting all the points of importance. A Russian ship followed a long way astern, but took care not to approach. No signs of a line of communication were observed, such as would be necessary if a body of a thousand Russians were in Kwong-sung as reported. From this the general opinion here is that the north-eastern corner of Corea is at present free from Russian troops.

The action of Sir Cyprian Bridge, Commander-in-Chief in the Far East, in placing the British Naval Hospital at Yokohama at the disposal of the Japanese authorities for their sick and wounded, has caused a great deal of favourable comment by the native journals, who speak in high praise of the Admiral.

A few of the war correspondents left yesterday, being assigned to the First Army Corps. The remainder will not be permitted to go to the front until the Second Army Corps is despatched in about one month. The Japanese are determined no news of their intentions shall leak through.

HILL DISTRICT RESERVATION PETITION.

The following is the text of the petition to which we alluded in our leading article elsewhere:—

To His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government of Hongkong.

THE HUMBLE PETITION OF THE UNDERSIGNED

Sheweth:—1. Your Petitioners are owners and occupiers of houses in the Hill District of Hongkong, and, being desirous of preserving the said District as a place of residence for themselves, their wives and their children, and the wives and children of their successors in this Colony, beg to submit to Your Excellency that prompt steps should be taken permanently to reserve that particular part of this Colony for exclusive residence of non-Chinese inhabitants.

2. The conditions of life in this Colony have changed greatly during recent years. The fall in the Gold value of the Dollar, the increased competition in all branches of trade and the consequent reduction of individual incomes have rendered it necessary for Europeans to remain longer than formerly in the Colony before being in a position to retire home with a competency.

3. Coincidentally with this change in the conditions of life, there have been a vast increase both in the numbers and wealth of the Chinese population, and the available area of building land in the lower levels of the City of Victoria being limited, the Chinese have gradually spread further along the lower levels until large areas which were formerly inhabited by Europeans are now mainly in the occupation of Chinese.

4. As long ago as 1888, the necessity for reservation of a European district was recognised, and provision was made by Ordinances Nos. 16 and 26 of that year for future prohibition of 'Chinese tenements' and the prevention of over-crowding in houses already erected and to be erected in certain districts of the City of Victoria, but these Ordinances have not prevented the practical absorption by Chinese of a large proportion of the area intended to be thus reserved.

5. Should this process of absorption by Chinese extend to the Peak District, and it is not more unlikely than the absorption of the European District of Victoria must have seemed to the framers of Ordinance No. 16 of 1888, very serious results to the health of Europeans and their families would follow. There being no other place for them to go to, they would then be driven to reside below, where the conditions are highly prejudicial to their health.

The Hill District is undeniably the healthiest part of the Colony for all those to whom life in the tropics presents the disadvantage of an unnatural environment; in fact, it is the only accessible part of the Colony which is fitted to be a healthy residential quarter for people accustomed to a temperate climate.

6. Your petitioners submit that in order effectually to secure the object they have in view it is necessary directly to prohibit Chinese, other than servants, from occupying houses built in the hill district, and further that, in imposing this limitation of residence, no hardship would be inflicted on the Chinese, for hitherto they have shewn no desire to occupy houses in that district, and, as they are living here in their native climate, they do not suffer from the oppressive heat of the lower levels during the summer months as Europeans do. To shew how pressing is the need amongst the European section of the community for securing dwellings at the Peak, your petitioners may mention that the rent of houses there is on the average nearly treble that which was paid ten years ago, and this notwithstanding the fact that the number of houses has very greatly increased in the interval.

7. The extension of the principle of Ordinance 16 of 1888 for which Your Petitioners ask is not very great, and their request for this reservation is made solely out of regard for the welfare of those who belong to non-tropical countries and who are now compelled to live in this enervating climate for the best part of their lives. It was the European section of the Community that opened up and developed the Hill District. They were impelled to do so by considerations of health alone, for the locality is more expensive and less convenient to live in than the lower levels. The number of reasonably available sites for houses in the Peak District is limited. Already the large majority have been built upon and very few remain for additional houses. Your Petitioners desire that this small proportion of Hongkong shall be reserved as a place of abode for those who cannot dwell in equal well-being elsewhere upon the Island, and they submit it is for the advantage of the Community as a whole that each section of it should live in the environment to which it is best adapted.

8. In conclusion, Your Petitioners submit that the future welfare of this Colony, that is, of its inhabitants as a whole, and its consequent value to the Empire, depends to a very large extent on the well-being of the European section of the Community whose health it is therefore essential to preserve, and that every year conditions render it more and more important that this section should be able to reside in a district where its members can live under the most favourable conditions possible and where the rising generation may spend their childhood amidst the healthiest obtainable surroundings.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that Your Excellency may be pleased to consider favourably their request and to take prompt steps to preserve the Hill District as a residential quarter for the non-Chinese residents of the community.

And Your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.
Dated the 22nd day of February 1904.

H.K.V.C. INSPECTION.

On the 26th ult. the annual inspection of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps was made by His Excellency Major-General Villiers Hatton, C.B., Commanding the Forces in Hongkong and China. His Excellency was accompanied by Major A. B. Hamilton, P.S.C., Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General; and Captain E. S. Ward, 2nd Grenadier Guards, aide-de-camp. The inspection was held on the Parade Ground opposite the Cricket Ground. There were on parade 170 of all ranks, and the inspection was witnessed by several thousands of spectators, including a large number of the Regulars. The Commandant, Major C. G. Pritchard, R.A., was in command, and the other officers present were Major A. Chapman, Sup. Surgeon Lt. E. A. R. Laing, Captains O. Ordish; G. J. B. Sayer, J. H. W. Arms, strong, T. Skinner, and R. Mitchell. Lieutenants J. W. L. Oliver, J. A. T. Plummer, G. P. Lammert, W. Nicholson, M. S. Northcote, E. G. Barrett, M. M. Scott, and W. A. Crake, Corps Sergeant-

Major W. Higby, and Corps Armourer-Sergeant J. Hawks. The Corps made a splendid appearance under inspection, both in marching past and in general drill movements. The band of the Notts and Derbyshire Regiment supplied the music.

At the conclusion of the inspection the Corps was formed in close order and H.E. General Villiers Hatton addressed the troops. His Excellency, however, did not, as his predecessor, General Gascoigne, invariably did through his aide-de-camp, invite the Press representatives to come forward and note his remarks. Our representative gathered from those who heard the address that His Excellency congratulated the Commandant on the appearance made by the Corps and stated that what he wanted to see was more men. In future the work would be done with 15-pounders, B. L., and Maxim guns, and not with the heavy guns in the forts.

The Corps afterwards dismissed.

THE "HYMN OF PRAISE."

The second of the series of Concerts to be given by the Philharmonic Society took place in the City Hall at 5.30 on the 28th ult., the selection for this one being Mendelssohn's *Hymn of Praise*,—a very appropriate selection, considering the day and the season. It will be remembered that the Philharmonic Society gave this same *Hymn of Praise* in the Cathedral on the 15th of December last, and so successful was it that, by request, they had arranged to give it a second time, but unfortunately several of the soloists and members of the orchestra were unable, through indisposition and for other reasons, to attend, and it was consequently abandoned for the time. The beautiful oratorio is now too well known in Hongkong to require any special mention, but the performers, soloists, chorus, orchestra, and conductor alike deserve the highest praise for one of the most finished renderings of such a piece we have heard for many years, and once again showed the power and capability of our local musicians, vocal and instrumental. On this occasion Mrs. Hagen was much missed in the soprano solos, but she was very well replaced by Miss Murray Bain, who sang with all her well-known sweetness and tastefulness, as did also Mrs. Craddock, who sustained her well-earned reputation as one of our local songstresses. Mr. Lammert and Mr. Edwards were, as usual, in excellent form, the latter's duet with Miss Murray Bain being especially well rendered, while Mr. Lammert was quite at home in his solos, his voice being heard, perhaps, to even better advantage here than in the Cathedral, where the last performance of the *Hymn of Praise* took place.

The soloists were Mrs. Craddock, Miss Murray Bain, Mr. G. H. Edwards, and Mr. G. P. Lammert. Conductor: Mr. A. G. Ward. President: H. E. Mr. F. H. May, C.M.G. Vice-President: Sir W. M. Goodman, K.C. Committee: Mr. P. Dow (Hon. Sec. Choral), Mr. G. Grimble, Mr. G. Lammert, Mr. E. Mirow, Mr. H. W. D. Schmidt (Hon. Sec. Orchestral), Mr. J. Wacker (Hon. Treasurer), and Mr. A. G. Ward.

The Chorus and Orchestra comprised the full Philharmonic Society, which scored another success. Unfortunately the audience was very scanty, and it hardly seems that the Hongkong public has any appreciation of the Philharmonic Society's work.

HONGKONG ODD VOLUMES SOCIETY

AUSTRALIA AND THE EMPIRE.

Mr. J. B. Sutor, Commercial Agent for New South Wales, in the East, last evening lectured at the City Hall, under the auspices of the Hongkong Odd Volumes Society, on Australia and the British Empire. The Hon. Gershom Stewart introduced the speaker, mentioning that the distinguished visitor was an Australian descended from one of the pioneers. In opening his lecture Mr. Sutor remarked that, like Mark Antony at the death of Cæsar, he was not an orator but a plain blunt man who loved his country. He touched upon such events as the conversation between Sir J. Banks and the Earl of Sandridge, at that time—1766—First Lord of the Admiralty, in

which they planned to send an expedition to observe the transit of Venus from Tahiti Island. Subsequently James Cook, the Columbus of his country, was despatched in the *Endeavour*, a 384 ton craft. After observing the transit he went in search of the large southern continent which was supposed to exist; the Chinese, too, had said so. After touching at New Zealand, and making search in vain, the *Endeavour* was pointed homeward—when, on the 19th of April, 1770, Lieut. Hicks reported land in sight, and that land was Australia. After some very interesting and in some instances amusing historical incidents connected with young Australia the speaker said that the country was not a poor one, and it was not barren. It had a river 700 miles wide, from which fresh water could be secured 20 miles at sea. This was a subterranean river originating, it was thought, at the Himalaya Mountains. When the ground was bored water spouted 40 or 50 feet into the air. Mr. Suttor said that Australians were British to the backbone, to the last man, and, also, they were "Joe Chamberlain." Some very interesting stories about Australian aboriginals ended a very pleasant hour-and-a-half.

Mr. Gershom Stewart proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the speaker; and Mr. Hamilton Sharp proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Gershom Stewart.

NOTES FROM THE BOTANIC GARDENS.

A small magnoliaceous tree, which the Chinese are very fond of on account of the fragrance of its flowers, is now in bloom in various parts of the gardens. This plant is known under the name of *Michelia fuscata*, and was introduced into Europe from China more than a century ago. The petals are light yellow in colour and slightly tinged with purple on the margins. Although the flowers are nearly an inch long they are not very conspicuous on the trees, but the scent from them is very powerful. The leaves are glabrous and shining above, about 3 inches long, and more than an inch across. The species has not been found out of China, and it was only a few years ago that it was found by us for the first time in Hongkong.

Another small tree, or large shrub, known as *Viburnum odoratissimum*, has been an attractive feature in the gardens during the last week. A couple of specimens may be seen near the statue in the old garden. This species differs from the one mentioned in last week's notes, as all the flowers are fertile. These are abundantly produced in panicles at the ends of the branches, and insects appear to be especially fond of them. When out of flower this tree is a very ornamental plant on account of its thickly-set dark green leaves. It is a native of Eastern India, Japan, and China, including Hongkong.

The *Amaryllis* plants in the bed alongside the walk leading from the *Grevillea* walk to the No. 1 house are beginning to make a good show. When all the flowers are open they are a gorgeous sight. Many people call these plants lilies, but they are not, and this often leads to great confusion. A lily forms its fruit within the flower, an *amaryllis* beneath it; a difference which may be noticed by the most casual observer.

Some very good specimens of *Cineraria stellata*, a garden hybrid, have been placed with other plants along the *Grevillea* walk.

The recent rain has done a lot of damage to the winter-flowering annuals, likewise much good to other things.

PRESENTATION AT THE SANITARY BOARD.

FAREWELL TO MESSRS. WOODCOCK AND BRYAN.

Messrs. G. A. Woodcock (Secretary of the Sanitary Board) and J. J. Bryan (Sanitary Surveyor) received presentations at the Sanitary Board Room on the morning of Wednesday, the 31st of March, the occasion of their departure for England on well-earned leave. The presentation to Mr. Woodcock was a handsome dragon-design Chinese silver bowl, on a blackwood stand, the following inscription being engraved on the bowl:—"Presented to G. A. Woodcock, Esq., as a mark of esteem." Mr.

Bryan received a Chinese silver fruit-dish of dragon design, on a blackwood stand. The inscription read, "Presented to J. J. Bryan, Esq., by officers of the Sanitary Department." Quite a number of Sanitary Board officers had gathered together to give them a send off.

The Hon. Dr. Atkinson, who presided, addressing Messrs. Woodcock and Bryan, said he had been asked by the members of the Sanitary Board to present the vessels as a small token of regard and esteem. They could not let them go without giving them some token in remembrance for the kindness they had always rendered to them in the work. They joined in wishing them a pleasant voyage. Mr. Bryan had suffered an injury to his knee while performing his duty, and they hoped he would enjoy rest in England which would restore him to perfect health, and enable him to rejoin them. On behalf of the members of the Sanitary Board he wished them *bon voyage*.

Mr. Woodcock thanked those who made the presentation very much for the kind present. It was very good of them to give him that nice token; they had got on well together. During the past year excellent work had been done by the Sanitary Department, and he wished it would improve year by year till plague was stamped out; he wished that all those who had gone in for the examination would come through with flying colours; he wished that the Civil Service Club might win the Cricket Shield next year; and he had one other wish—he wished them all a very good bye.

Mr. J. J. Bryan said that in his present condition it was rather difficult to make a speech. He thanked them very much indeed.

Much handshaking terminated the proceedings.

MASONIC INSTALLATION.

UNITED MARK LODGE.

Bro. W. H. Woolley was on the 25th ult. installed Worshipful Master of the United Mark Lodge, No. 419, E. C., at the Masonic Temple, Zetland Street, in succession to Wor. Bro. H. W. Wolfe. The new W. M. invested his officers as follows:—Sen. Warden, Bro. J. H. Varcoe; Jun. Warden, Bro. H. Baker; Master Overseer, Bro. F. E. Penning; Sen. Overseer, Bro. M. Taylor; Jun. Overseer, Bro. C. Tuckwell; Chaplain, Wor. Bro. W. L. Ford; Treasurer, Bro. J. Presley; Registrar of Marks, Bro. S. Skinnard; Secretary, Bro. J. French; Sen. Deacon, Bro. J. T. Hawks; Jun. Deacon, Bro. E. R. Udall; Organist, Bro. J. T. Longstaff; Director of Ceremonies, Bro. H. J. A. McCaffery; Inner Guard, Bro. J. Gimblett; Stewards, Bro. C. H. Parkinson and Bro. W. J. Gast; and Tyler, Bro. J. Vanstone.

After supper a good programme of music was given. Included amongst those who contributed were Bro. W. Jenkins and Staff-Sergt. Fielding, S.F., and Brothers D. Bowen, R. H. Stephenson, A. P. Goodwin, F. W. Watson, A. T. Walston, P. W. Goldring, Chas. Wood W. Cullen, E. Thwaites, W. Carbury, T. Groves, E. W. Rogers, J. T. Hawks, and Seaton. The large banqueting hall was prettily decorated with bunting, lace curtains hanging in graceful folds over the windows. A stage was erected at the west end of the room, it being decorated with a fine canvas painting, Royal Standards, Union Jack, and palms. In place of centre-pieces along the tables, at which some 150 had sat down to supper, were a fine variety of flowers intermingled with fresh green moss. Lighting arrangements consisted of a profusion of vari-coloured electric bulbs. This is the first time, in the history of Hongkong, that a Mark Installation has been thus celebrated. It indicates, of course, the flourishing condition of the Craft.

On the 3rd ult. Miss Dorothy Gertrude Arbuthnot (sister of Captain J. B. Arbuthnot, who recently married Miss Blake in Hongkong) was married in Gloucester Cathedral to Captain Hugh Frederick Bateman Champion, 1st, Ghu. ka Rifles. The *Gloucester Journal* publishes portraits of the bride and bridegroom. Among the presents were a Chinese coat, tea service, silver centre-piece, three silver vases and a roll of Chinese silk from Captain and Mrs. J. B. Arbuthnot, and a silver vinaigrette from Mrs. Woolaston Blake.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 26th March.

RAIN AND THE CROPS.

It is strange to read that there has been little rain at Hongkong, when here we have hardly been without a rainy day for a fortnight. The rains here do an inestimable amount of good; after a good downpour the streets are wonderfully clean, and the masses of filth that have been accumulated for months are washed into the river. The crops give good promise this year, and it is well that this is the case, for another season of drought would cause very widespread misery.

PRINCE ADALBERT.

On Sunday a reception was given at the German Consulate in honour of Prince Adalbert, the Kaiser's son. The Viceroy sent his deputies to attend on the prince, and he was conducted round the city by them, seeing the chief objects of interest. A banquet was given to him in Honam by Mr. Wu, who had entertained Prince Henry of Prussia a few years ago. The Prince gave Mr. Wu a cigar-holder of the finest kind, and was presented with a cross of the best jade stone procurable.

RAILWAY WORK DELAYED.

The opening of the extension line to Samshui was to have taken place to-day, but has been postponed. The line will not in any case be open to traffic for another month at least, as the rainy season is not favourable for work. 100 miles of the main line have been surveyed carefully from Canton, and, as mentioned before, operations have already begun, and are progressing slowly but steadily.

PIRACY DIMINISHING.

The piracy business seems to be at a discount at present; there has for some time been no news to chronicle of these gentry. Perhaps they have not yet recovered from the New Year's festivities! Even from the troublous Waichow district no intelligence can be gleaned, where a few months ago every week brought news of some fresh outrage. It is to be hoped that the authorities at last find themselves able to cope with the forces of disorder in a district which is perhaps before long destined to see a branch railway from the projected Canton-Kowloon line, and where, therefore, it is important that the reign of law should be supreme.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."] LI PAK-HOI.

It is reported that a telegram has been received in the official circle stating several thousand bandits under the notorious robber leader Li Pak-hoi, for whose capture a reward of over ten thousand dollars has been offered by the officials, have captured the city of Young King, the magistrate of which has made good his escape. The Viceroy has at once sent Li Taotai with a large number of soldiers to relieve the city.

FATAL ACCIDENT.

Some days ago a cargo-boat was proceeding from Shao-hing to Wuchow. When she passed the place named To-shing, where the river is very narrow, the boat-people landed and dragged the boat along from the bank by ropes. Unexpectedly one of the tow-ropes was broken. At the time the current was very strong, and the boat at once capsized with all on board. Four persons were drowned, while the others were saved by boats in the vicinity.

A S. Petersburg telegram of the 20th February says that the abolition of the censorship on news telegrams sent abroad from Russia is understood to be the direct outcome of the interview which Mr. Melville Stone, general manager of the Associated Press, had with the Tsar in S. Petersburg.

Fire broke out at midnight on the 21st inst. in the godown of Messrs. Hin Lee & Co., Beach Street, Penang, and continued burning for two hours. The conflagration was confined to the central portion of the lengthy godown. The strong pressure of water in the hydrants saved Penang from another disastrous fire. The damage, which is estimated at \$10,000, is covered by insurance.

MANILA.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

Manila, 17th March.

THE GOMEZ CASE.

One of the principal events of the past week was the closing of the prosecution and the opening of the defence in the long drawn out Gomez trial. This is the most tedious case heard by the Insular bench, having already covered a period of over four months in session, during which in the close neighbourhood of seventy-five witnesses have been examined by the prosecution. The public prosecutor has presented an intricate line of testimony on the count of conspiring to raise a rebellion, strengthened from time to time with fresh developments by the constabulary and local police. As the case now stands the hand of Dominador Gomez has been shown in every unlawful disturbance or seditious act of the past year, and his plottings revealed since the time when the Madrid *junta* first held its meetings in his house in 1899. Gomez's relation with the Hongkong *junta* and the banditti over here have served to shed light on the true motives of the so-called Labour Union, as president of which he corresponded in both cases. The ingenious manner in which this man succeeded in veiling the real purposes of the Union and secured absolute financial and administrative control marks him as one of a peculiarly dangerous type—and a type he unquestionably is. He is a *metizo*, with a strain of Chinese blood in him, and belongs to a class much too common in the Philippines, whose personal ambitions for power and money cause them to agitate their less intelligent countrymen into a state of political dissatisfaction leading to disturbance, invariably resulting in their own profit but the misery of their followers. The public prosecutor pointedly referred to this a few days ago when addressing the court at the arraignment of ex-General Lukban and his brothers on a similar charge. "The offence of men of this class," he said, "is not against the American Government; it is against those people" (indicating the throng of barefooted natives). "They are the people who have been going to prison and to the gallows because such men as the defendants have made tools of them; and it is now time for the leaders to take a little punishment."

In the Ricarte episode the hand of Gomez appears. It is for plotting with Gomez to the end of bringing Ricarte to Manila to organise an active rebellion that the Lukbans are standing trial. Arsenio Ricarte seems to have suffered an impression that the Filipinos were just ripe for an uprising, and that they only needed a leader. Instead, he found the native population apathetic and less inclined to listen to agitators than ever since the American occupation. Worn out from a warfare that has only earned trouble for themselves, and satisfied that they are getting good treatment from the present government, the common people are now lending themselves to recouping from the effects of stagnated industry. Ricarte clearly evinces his disappointment at this by the bitter tone of his absurd vapourings, which he has been uttering in the form of public letters to the Press and rabid epistles to the Governor, in which he violently denounces his countrymen for their moral and material support of American authority. These communications have aroused no concern in the Government, but rather amusement everywhere at their extravagant and impossible threats. The letters to Governor Wright bear all the earmarks of the desperate attempt of an impecunious and unscrupulous agitator to place himself in a false position of importance with a view to obtaining some concession or consideration for a change of heart (?). In one of these Ricarte frankly intimated that if a sufficiently lucrative position were assured to him he would come into daylight and exert his "friendly influence" in pacifying (?) the Islands. These tirades are patho-comic, and palpably ridiculous efforts at political blackmail, such as are perhaps only possible in the Philippine Islands.

Nevertheless, the secret service of the Government has been busy rounding up officers bearing the appointment of "the Viper," as he styles

himself; and the court dockets have shown an unusual sprinkling of conspiracy charges. So far, however, not a single private soldier nor petty official has been discovered, the majority of those arrested being "generals"; and all the documentary evidence gathered consists of a few wild *manifestos* and the commissions of the individuals in question, who are, without exception, men of very inferior station and intelligence who have been lured by high-sounding titles and the fascination of responsibility.

When Ricarte surreptitiously entered Manila last December one of the most solicitous in offering assistance and information to the Constabulary was Pio del Pilar, another ex-general of insurgents and a fellow prisoner of the "Viper" at Guam. Pilar was transported to Guam in 1900 after repeatedly breaking his parole, and since subscribing the oath of allegiance on his return to Manila last year has been engaged in gambling and cock-fighting for a livelihood in an outskirt town. His unsought proffer of help to the authorities aroused their suspicions and brought about his surveillance. Then, finding himself watched and out of money, Pilar suddenly disappeared from view, and is now known to have joined his former comrade in arms in the jungle.

Another gentleman who managed to vanish successfully is Aurelio Tolentino, the seditious playwright who was under a \$5,000 bond to appear for trial as the author of *Yesterday, To-day, and To-morrow*, who also joined Ricarte. This resulted in the bondsmen of Tolentino's brother surrendering their charge, who is to be tried for staging the play. Aurelio jointly subscribed himself to Ricarte's letters to Governor Wright, in which he posed as an unfortunate journalist who had only written to keep the wolf from the door, and had become an involuntary fugitive from the persecution of the Government.

Those who are anxious of making the present satisfactory conditions appear as otherwise have attempted to connect the Vigan mutiny and some *pulija* raids in Samar with the Ricarte affair. The latter is not unusual to the periodic banditry of that island, and the former was only related in that the chief ringleader, a Constabulary corporal named Ayala, was a junior officer under Ricarte during the insurrection and was inspired to incite the mutiny by a letter from his former chief.

A great deal of satisfaction has been quietly expressed here over the manner in which the Vigan affair was handled. The personal conduct of its suppression by Colonel Scott, the Acting Chief of Constabulary; his unhesitancy in asking for military co-operation; the final recapture of all the mutineers with their arms; and the prompt trial of the ringleaders, the principal of whom received the death sentence within a week of his capture, have had a salutary effect and have won the commendation of all.

FINANCE.

The local Press last week made quite an outcry over the refusal of the Insular Treasurer to cash in American currency a Government cheque for 27,447.79 Philippine dollars, claiming that the Government by this action failed to make good the provisions of the Gold Standard Act and redeem at par Philippines currency with United States currency. The Secretary of Finance ruled in the case that "in view of the fact that the gold standard fund can be increased only by the premium that is received from time to time for sale of exchange and that the price now being paid for Spanish-Filipino coins, for recoinage at the official ratio, is such as to deplete that fund, it is not considered desirable to make exchanges of United States currency for Philippine currency in all cases." The payee was offered a treasury draft on the United States, which is at a local discount of 3/4 of one per cent., which he refused, and placed the matter in the hands of an attorney, with the claim of discrimination.

As a result of the outcry, and in order to reassure the public, a lengthy statement has just been issued by Secretary Ide setting forth the Government's position with reference to the interpretation of the Act.

It was shown that the Government has always reserved the right to deny the par redemption wherever it is for its own protection. In the case in question it was known (nor was it denied) that United States currency was called for in payment of the cheque for

shipment out of the Philippines to Hongkong for speculative ends. Commissioner Ide held that the only legitimate purposes for which Philippines currency will not serve equally well are: (1) to pay foreign balances; (2) for current expenses of travellers going home; (3) to meet previously contracted obligations which are specifically payable in United States currency; and (4) to accommodate insular employees and others in the Islands who wish to transmit funds home and do not care to use post-office money orders or bank drafts for that purpose; and that any other purpose was obviously speculative. He referred to Professor Jenks's recommendation that later, although not immediately, it will probably be found wise to stop redeeming Philippine currency as provided in the Act, and stated plainly that the object of the discretionary provision was to offset the chance of the Insular Treasury becoming a free shop at which currency exchange could be made for purely speculative purposes, and to enable the Government to reserve enough United States currency with which to meet its obligations.

MUNICIPAL WORKS.

The laying of the track for the new electric street-car system is being rapidly pushed, and the walled town is already well gridironed. Three breaches have been made in the walls, providing more direct routes into and out of the Intramuros district and a saving of much time and trouble. The passage of the Municipal Appropriation Act places a large fund available for carrying out the other projected improvements, including a modern sewerage system, the filling-in and parking-out of the moat and glacis area around the old city, the construction of a steel bridge connecting the southern suburbs, and the installation of a new water-supply from the hills back of Mariveles. These works will of course involve the employment of a large force of workmen, and the mooted question of native labour will come in for a test. In the construction of the street-car line Filipinos have been employed, and have been found satisfactory with American foremen over every gang. No difficulty is encountered in obtaining men. With fair and prompt wages, a large waiting list, and summary dismissal for all shirkers, a surprising energy is the result, so that the work is being rapidly and efficiently accomplished. This is interesting in view of the advocacy of a large class for the introduction of Chinese and Japanese labour, although the problem in a metropolis, with the ordinary percentage of unemployed, and the same problem in the provinces, among the peasant class with a generous soil, are two different things.

WEIHAIWEI.

MR. LOCKHART QUITS A RUMOUR.

The N.-C. Daily News publishes the following correspondence:—

Weihaiwei, 15th March, 1904.

Your Honour,—We have the honour to inform you that various rumours are current in Shanghai, supposed to emanate from reliable sources, to the effect that Weihaiwei will be full of sick and wounded from the war and not a desirable place to come to this year, also that it is pretty certain that no one will be able to come to the port this summer; and as intending occupants of our bungalows are being deterred by these rumours from making arrangements to visit Weihaiwei during the coming summer, we have the honour to ask whether you are able to inform us if there is any truth in them, and if not, whether you can authorise us to make it known publicly in Shanghai that the rumours are without foundation, and thus enable us to reassure intending visitors to the port.—We have the honour to be, Your Honour, Your most obedient servants,

(Signed) LAWRENCE & CLARK,

Agents, the Weihaiwei

Land & Building Co., Ltd.

His Honour, The Commissioner,

Weihaiwei.

Government House, Port Edward,
Weihaiwei, 16th March, 1904.

Gentlemen.—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th inst. informing me that various rumours regarding this Dependency, supposed to emanate from reliable sources, are current in Shanghai, and in reply

to inform you that, so far as this Government is aware, there is no truth in the rumours to which you refer.

2.- You are at liberty to publish this letter, so that the public may know the truth instead of being misled by disturbing rumours, which are evidently the creations of those who delight to indulge in an imaginary anticipation of events that are not even likely to occur.—I have the honour to be, Gentlemen, Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) J. H. ST. WART LOCKHART
Commissioner

Messrs. Lavers & Clark

The Weihaiwei correspondent of our contemporary writes as follows on the same subject:—

A rumour has reached us from Shanghai that summer visitors will not be allowed here this season! The statement is so obviously false that it scarcely merits contradiction; but there are timid people who are prepared to accept the wildest assertions; and think, that since this health resort happens to be within a hundred miles of Port Arthur, it may not be "safe" to come here. Such people appear to ignore two very plain facts: (1) Great Britain is not at war, nor likely to be. (2) In common with every other British possession, this colony is under the protection of the most powerful navy in existence.

SUPREME COURT.

Saturday, 26th March.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR WILLIAM M.
GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE).

CHAN UT-CHIU AND PUN KAN SHAN V. CHU
LEE AND CHU PING.

His Lordship delivered judgment in the above case. Hon. H. E. Pollock, K.C., and Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C. (instructed by Mr. R. Harding of Messrs. Ewens and Harston, solicitors), appeared for the plaintiffs; and Mr. M. W. Slade, barrister-at-law, (instructed by Mr. H. J. Gedge, of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master, solicitors), appeared for the defendants. The case was argued on 14th and 15th March.

His Lordship in delivering judgment said—This is an action brought by the plaintiffs to determine the respective rights of themselves and the defendants, with regard to a certain portion of the Praya Reclamation which is situated in front of Marine Lot 53 (A.) The plaintiffs ask that it should be declared by this Court that they are entitled to the area of reclaimed land marked red on the plan annexed to certain Articles of Agreement between one Chu Chuen and Mr. Bruce Shepherd, on behalf of the Governor of Hongkong, dated 5th October 1889; that is to say to such proportion (from front to back) of the whole of the Reclamation to Marine Lot 53 (A), as the frontage of the plaintiffs' property, Sections B and D of the said Lot upon the old Praya, bears to the whole frontage of Marine Lot 53 (A) upon the said roadway. The defendants, who are sued as the executors of one Chu Chuen, deceased, deny, in paragraph 5 of their defence, that the plaintiffs are entitled, upon the true construction of the Praya Reclamation Ordinance, 1889, to any part of the Reclamation and they plead that they (the defendants) are in possession of such reclaimed land. When originally Marine Lots were first granted they had an actual sea frontage, but Marine Lot 53 (A) which, I presume, occupied the site of part of one of the original Marine Lots, had its seaward frontage on the old Praya, a road 50 feet wide running along between the houses and the sea or waters of the harbour. Marine Lot 53 (A) appears to have been originally demised by the Crown, in April, 1859, to one Iao Bapista Gomes for a term of 99 years and when so demised was not bounded by the sea, but by the old Praya. The boundaries are described as the Praya on the north, Queen's Road on the south, Marine Lot 18 on the west, and "a close registered in the Land Office as Marine Lot 53 (being the centre line of a private party lane, fifteen feet wide)" on the east. In course of time the Crown Lessee assigned various sections of this Lot to others. In 1881 Yiu Chow became assignee of

Sections B. and D. In 1882 Chu Chuen became assignee of Section A. In 1886 Chu Chuen also became assignee of a Section called the "remaining portion" and Mr. M. J. Stephens at some date, which was not stated, but prior to 1889, became assignee of Section C. The Praya Reclamation Ordinance, No. 16 of 1889, was passed on 10th May, 1889, and, at that date, the various Sections of Marine Lot 53 (A) were held as follows:—Section B & D were held by one Yiu Chow. Section C was held by Mr. M. J. Stephens. Section A and that part called "the remaining portion" of Marine Lot 53 (A) were held by one Chu Chuen. The Marine Lot, taken as a whole, extended, as I have stated, from Queen's Road to the old Praya, now known as Des Vaux Road. Section C fronted the Queen's Road, Sections B and D fronted the old Praya. Section A was bounded on the north by Sections B and D and so did not front the old Praya at all, although by the deed of assignment, 31st July 1882, Chu Chuen the purchaser, had granted to him "free and uninterrupted right of ingress, egress and regress in, to, over and upon and way and user of the 'Remaining portion' coloured blue on the plan." The "Remaining portion" was a Section which included the land between Section A and the Queen's Road (except Section C) and the long narrow strip of land, constituting one half of the narrow private lane, extending from Queen's Road to the Praya, and thus had a frontage on the Praya. At the date of this action, the plaintiffs held B and D, formerly held by their predecessor in title, Yiu Chow, who died in 1893; and the defendants held Section A and "the remaining portion" of Marine Lot 53 (A), by devolution of the property from Chu Chuen, who died in 1898. The whole of the frontage, therefore, on the old Praya, of Marine Lot 53A was taken up by Sections B and D and the "remaining portion."

Assuming that rights to the reclamation to be made under the Praya Reclamation Ordinance, 1889, were only given by that Ordinance to frontagers, i.e., to persons whose Lots (if they held the whole lot) or whose Sections of those Lots (if the Lots were broken up) fronted on the old Praya, it is clear that the plaintiffs' predecessor in title, Yiu Chow, was entitled to come in under that Ordinance as frontager, in respect of Sections B and D, and that the defendant's predecessor in title, Chu Chuen, was entitled to come in, as a frontager in respect of the "remaining portion." It is also clear that, on that assumption, the holders of Sections C and A were not entitled to come in under the Ordinance and claim any part of the reclamation. When the "further plan" specified in subsection (1) of Section 7 of the Praya Reclamation Ordinance and the Schedule (containing a List of the lessees) annexed to the plan, are referred to, it appears that Yiu Chow is entered as registered Crown Lessee of Sections B and D, and Chu Chuen as registered Crown lessee of the "remaining portion" of Marine Lot 53 (A). The Schedule which was published in the Gazette and contained in Government Notification No. 301, dated 6th July 1889, shows that the length of Yiu Chow's frontage was 41 feet 6 inches in respect of Sections B and D while Chu Chuen's frontage in respect of "the remaining portion" was 10 feet 9 inches. The area of "proposed reclamation assignable to lessees" was entered as 5853 square feet for Yiu Chow and 1526 sq. ft. for Chu Chuen, the "estimated cost of making the reclamation" was \$2.18 square foot, and "the respective estimated amounts of contribution" were: Yiu Chow, \$12,759, and Chu Chuen, \$3,326. No provision was made by the plan and schedule for any portion of the reclamation to be given to any but frontagers, so the holder of Section C, a back Section, is not mentioned in the schedule, nor is Section A referred to at all. This system of allowing only frontagers to come in was the system regularly followed as being in accordance with the Ordinance. I am not now speaking of any special case where there may have been some special agreement or contract between the frontager and some other person. If the Ordinance is carefully read and considered it will be found that the claims of holders of back sections of Marine Lots to be entitled to any part of the reclamation are not recognised by it at all. It seems too that the

practice has always been that the proportion of reclamation allotted to holders of Marine Lots fronting the Praya Roadway along the line of the reclamation, or, where any such Marine Lot has been split up into Sections, some being back Sections and others fronting the said Praya Roadway, then the proportion of reclamation allotted to the respective owners of such frontage Sections has been determined by the respective lengths of such frontages along the Praya Roadway i.e., the extent of the line of frontage. Before dealing with the specific facts of this case, it may be well to point out that Section 6 of the Ordinance is very sweeping. The intended reclamation is declared to be the property of the Crown and, subject to the provisions of the Ordinance, the Governor has conferred upon him full power to deal with it in the same way as he can deal with other Crown lands. The words of the section are as follows:—

6. "All the land and foreshore and bed of the sea to be reclaimed under this ordinance, and all the land occupied by the present Praya roadway, and wall along the line of the intended reclamation, is hereby declared to be absolutely the property of the Queen, free from any restriction whatever, and the Governor shall have power, subject to the provisions of this ordinance, to deal with the same and to dispose of the same for building or any other purpose in the same way and to as full an extent, as in the case of other Crown Lands; and all property, estate, rights or supposed rights and easements or supposed easements of any persons or class of persons, whether Crown leaseholders or licensees or otherwise, to the user or possession or occupation of, in, over or in any way in relation to such land, foreshore, bed of the sea, embankment, reclamation, or praya road-way and wall, or in relation to any wharf, landing place, pier, or other place, situate thereupon, are hereby declared to be absolutely extinguished and determined."

It seems clear, therefore, that all claims except those provided for by the Ordinance are extinguished. What claims then does the Ordinance provide for?

Section 7 deals with these. It commences as follows: "whereas the Crown lessees or their assigns registered in the Land Registry Office at the date of the commencement of this Ordinance in respect of the lots of land or sections thereof fronting the Praya Roadway along the line of the proposed Reclamation (which persons with their executors, administrators and assigns, except where repugnant to the context are hereinafter referred to as lessees) or the majority of them, have already declared or signified their readiness to contribute towards the cost to be incurred for and in connection with the works authorised by this Ordinance, provided the Governor will grant to them, respectively, Crown Leases of such equitable proportion of the proposed reclamation as may be available, having regard to public requirements in respect of the roads and streets to be made on the land when reclaimed and in the case of each lessee having regard to the claims of other lessees," &c., &c.

It will conduce to clearness if I here point out that the meaning of the word "lessees" for the purposes of this Section is defined by the first few lines of the Section as the Crown Lessee or assignee not of a back Section, but of a lot fronting the old Praya or (if the lot is divided into Sections) of a Section thereof fronting the old Praya.

This throws light on the words "Such equitable proportion of the proposed reclamation as may be available having regard . . . to the claims of other lessees." The other lessees whose claims are to be considered are 'frontagers' not back Section holders. In the case of Marine Lot 53 (A) there were 3 Sections fronting the Praya and the proportion of the reclamation allotted in respect of each of these Sections was proportioned to their respective frontages, i.e., the frontages of Sections B and D and of "the remaining portion," on the Praya Roadway.

As regards the land and the strip fronting on the Praya, known as "the remaining portion" of Marine Lot 53 (A) Chu Chuen entered into Articles of Agreement. He agreed by such articles to pay certain contributions, which I understand have been duly paid, and became entitled (subject to payment of any extra contributions which might become payable under

the third clause) to claim (when Crown Leases are granted), a Crown Lease of the portion of the Reclamation delimited on the plan annexed to those Articles of Agreement. The whole of the rest of the reclamation in front of M.L. 53 (A), now in dispute, was by the schedule allotted to Yiu Chow, the other frontager, as owner of Sections B and D.

It seems strange that Yiu Chow should not within the statutory two months from 6th July 1889 (the date of the Notification in the *Gazette*) have formally signified, in writing, his acceptance of the portion of the Reclamation assigned to him in the Schedule. If he had done so, there was no lawful objection that I can see to prevent his being allowed, and I think it probable that he would have been allowed, to enter into the Articles of Agreement specified in the Ordinance. If he had done so he would, on payment of the contribution specified and any extra payments that might become due, have become entitled to a Crown Lease in due course of the very portion of the reclamation which is now in dispute.

Mr. Bruce Shepherd in his evidence, gives some explanation of the matter. He said "I tried to get Mr. Yiu Chow to sign the Agreement as the frontager of B and D before the undertaking of 19th December" (what this undertaking was, will be explained later on). "It would be during the month of November. He said he wanted to buy the Godowns on Section A and he would not sign anything or agree to anything till he could settle with Chu Chuen (who was then an old man) about the purchase of Section A and the remaining portion." Chu Chuen, however, refused to sell to Yiu Chow and Yiu Chow then said to me that it would be better for him to wait for Chu Chuen's death and then buy all the Lot and get the reclamation cheaper. Upon that I decided that Chu Chuen should sign the agreement and enter into the guarantee which he did."

This was accordingly done, and Chu Chuen entered into the very agreement which, but for his singular conduct in the matter Yiu Chow ought to have entered into. Indeed, the original agreement was made out in Yiu Chow's name ready for him to sign, and he is therein described as Crown Lessee of Section D and Section B, but this is struck out, a line being drawn through his name, and Chu Chuen signs and is described as Crown Lessee of Marine Lot 53, though article 5 of the agreement contains this proviso:—"provided always that nothing in this agreement contained shall be held to give the Lessee any right or rights over the new foreshore or otherwise in respect of or in connection with the portion of the reclamation hereby agreed to be granted to him, of a nature different to or in a degree greater or less than such lessee may have had in respect of or in connection with the said Marine Lot, 53 A, Sect. D, 53 A Section B, immediately before the coming into operation of this Ordinance."

It is clear however that, immediately before the coming into operation of the Ordinance, Chu Chuen had no rights as regards Sections B and D. Attached to the Agreement is an undertaking signed by Chu Chuen dated 19th December 1889, which I understand to be the date he actually signed the Articles of Agreement (that is after the statutory three months), which had been previously made out in readiness and had been dated 5th October 1889. That "undertaking" is in the following words:—"the undersigned Chu Chuen, Crown Lessee of Marine Lot No. 53 A, in consideration of the agreement entered into by me this day for the reclamation of the foreshore in front of the said Lot, under the Praya Reclamation Ordinance, 1889, hereby guarantee either to assign an equitable proportion of the said reclamation, or to pay an equivalent in money to the owner of Sections B, C and D of the said Lot. I hereby also agree to indemnify the Government in respect of any legal claim that may hereafter be made against it in respect of the said Reclamation."

Mr. Bruce Shepherd's evidence continued as follows:—"I spoke to Yiu Chow as well as to Chu Chuen before the guarantee was settled or signed. Neither of them could agree as to how the equitable proportion should be settled. I told both Yiu Chow and Chu Chuen that the 'equitable proportion' could not mean the whole. I took the words 'equitable proportion' out of the Ordinance (Section 7).

It looks therefore as if Yiu Chow had contended that he was entitled to the whole or it would not have been necessary to discuss whether the 'equitable proportion' could or could not mean the whole. It is in my opinion, fairly clear that Yiu Chow wanted what he was entitled to, viz., all the Reclamation now in dispute, but that Chu Chuen and those who then advised him, claimed the greater part for Chu Chuen, and being more pushing and resolute than Yiu Chow, Chu Chuen got permission to sign on condition that he settled the just claims of others.

It is owing to the wrong man having been allowed to sign what purported to be articles of agreement under the Ordinance that the present difficulty has arisen.

Both Yiu Chow and Chu Chuen are dead, and the plaintiffs and defendants now stand in their respective places and, seeing that the cost of the 5,853 square feet of reclamation in dispute was under \$13,000, while its present value is estimated as not far off \$100,000, it is easy to understand that the question of what is the 'equitable proportion' is being vigorously fought out.

There was correspondence between Chu Chuen and the Colonial Secretary before the articles of agreement were entered into. Chu Chuen wrote on 27th July, 1889, complaining, *inter alia*, that although 1,526 feet of reclamation had been allotted him in respect of his "remaining portion" of M. Lot 53 (A), yet nothing had been allotted to him in respect of Section A, which as he alleged comprised more than half the area of the whole of Marine Lot 53A. Of course, the reason was that Section A had no frontage on the old Praya. Accordingly, on 30th Sept., he gets a letter from the Colonial Secretary's office to the following effect:—"I am directed by the Governor to inform you that as regards sub-section A of M. Lot 68 and Section A of Marine Lot 53(A), the lands in question having no marine frontages have no moral claim on foreshores such as has been held to attach to land having such frontage." Chu Chuen, however, wrote back (letter 1st October, 1889) urging his claim "as the registered Crown Leaseholder of Marine Lot 53A and the actual owner of nearly seven-eighths of the Lot" and saying "Is not every part owner of a Marine Lot entitled to share in the benefits of the Praya Extension? Can any Ordinance of the Legislative Council over-ride the provisions of my Crown lease, &c. &c.?"

The proper legal answers to those questions were that back section owners could not participate, and that an Ordinance of the Legislative Council approved by the Crown can if necessary over-ride the provisions of any lease, as was expressly decided in Ryrie's case. Finally, on 6th December, 1889, Mr. Lister, the Acting Colonial Secretary, writes to say, "His Excellency is advised that you may be permitted to sign the agreement in connection with the Praya Reclamation in respect of the whole lot upon your guaranteeing either to assign an equitable proportion of the reclamation or to pay an equivalent in money both to Mr. Stephens, who owns Section C of the Lot, and to Mr. Yiu Chow, who owns Sections B and D. His Excellency understands that you are willing to adopt the course suggested. I am to add, however, that it will be necessary to include in the agreement referred to a clause indemnifying the Government in respect of any claim, that may hereafter be made against it in relation to these Lots and any grant of reclamation in connection therewith. I am, therefore, to request you to be good enough to place yourself in early communication with the Land Office with a view to carrying out the above arrangements." We now see how Chu Chuen came to be allowed to sign the agreement which one would have expected to find Yiu Chow signing. Mr. Bruce Shepherd in cross examination stated, "When I asked Yiu Chow to sign the Reclamation Agreement he could have done so if he had wished." Yiu Chow did not seem anxious to sign. I think he was afraid of Chu Chuen's claim, and Chu Chuen was very vigorously urging his claim and seeking to establish a right for back section owners to participate in the new reclamation. Now I am asked to say what is this 'equitable proportion' to which Yiu Chow's successors are entitled. They claim to be entitled to the whole, on the ground that Chu Chuen really must be taken to have entered into the articles of agreement as trustee for, or on behalf of, the owners of

Sections B and D, and of course express their willingness to repay to him (or the defendants as his representatives) with interest at 8 per cent., all the contributions towards the expenses of the Reclamation which he has had to pay under the articles of agreement. The defendants, on the other hand, contend that Yiu Chow, not having signified his acceptance within the two months from the date of the notification of July 6th, 1889, as required by the Ordinance, and not having entered into any articles of agreement under that Ordinance, lost his claim and was relegated to the position of those who might ask for compensation from the Governor under sub-section 6 of Section 7. Moreover, they contend, that when the undertaking or guarantee was given, Chu Chuen never intended for one moment that under the words "equitable proportion" Yiu Chow was to get the whole. Indeed it came out in the correspondence that Chu Chuen actually paid Mr. Stephens, the owner of back section C, \$2,000, to settle his claim to a part of the reclamation. Chu Chuen disputed the view that the Ordinance, properly read, conferred no rights whatever to share in the reclamation upon any but frontagers, so naturally had to apply his principles to Mr. Stephens' claim. Now, it has been held that where there is a doubtful point of law such as a question respecting the construction of a will, there is nothing whatever to prevent a compromise, and though, naturally, one party must be wrong in his view, yet he cannot afterwards seek relief on the ground of mistake assuming the compromise was fairly entered into. But I see no evidence that Yiu Chow was a party to any compromise or to the signing by Chu Chuen of the articles of agreement with the undertaking attached, or that Yiu Chow was consulted about the terms of that undertaking. It seems clear that Chu Chuen supposed that, in giving that undertaking he was only agreeing to assign some small portion of the reclamation to Yiu Chow because, in his letter, of 20th December, 1889, to the Colonial Secretary he says he has settled with Mr. Stephens by paying \$2,000 and continues, "I regret, however, that I have not yet been equally fortunate with Yiu Chow, the owner of Sections B and D, but, as his equitable proportion is so small that he could not build upon it in conformity with the Building Agreement of the Reclamation Ordinance, he may see that it is desirable to sell his interest as Mr. Stephens has done." It seems to me that Yiu Chow rightly wanted the whole of the disputed portion of the Reclamation. I have no difficulty in determining that Chu Chuen's contention was wrong, and that Yiu Chow was entitled (had he urged his claim to do so) to sign the articles of agreement for the whole. My difficulty arises out of the fact that he did not do so. If he had gone to the Court at the time to determine what the equitable proportion was, the answer would have then been, "It means, in this case, the whole." Before I pass to the more recent correspondence, I may point out that the payments made by Chu Chuen, or by the defendants, his successors, in respect of the disputed portion of the reclamation were:—

\$3,189.88	19th December, 1889
3,189.88	21st August, 1899
3,189.89	29th June, 1900
1,594.94	28th February, 1903
1,594.95	15th January, 1903

In all \$12,759.54

It will be observed that after the first contribution was paid, the same day as the undertaking was given, no further contribution was required till August, 1899, after both Yiu Chow and Chu Chuen were dead. That may, at least partly, explain some of the delay in these proceedings, for the reclamation in front of Lot 53A was not begun until some years after the articles of agreement were made. When the further instalment of contribution was required, application for payment was made by the Treasury to the plaintiffs instead of to the defendants. This mistake probably arose from the name of Yiu Chow, the plaintiffs' predecessor as owner of Sections B and D, being mentioned in the Schedule, in the Government notification of 1889, previously referred to. The plaintiffs, accordingly, in July, 1901, paid

he sum claimed instead of informing the Treasury of the mistake, and got a receipt. But I cannot see how that affects the question; for when the mistake was discovered a refund of the money was offered and the defendants have also paid the amount to the Treasury, so that whichever party is entitled to get the money back, will doubtless be permitted to do so. On 10th January, 1903, the plaintiff's solicitors wrote to the defendants asking them to assent to the Crown Lease of the disputed portion of the reclamation being granted to them on repayment of the contributions, i.e. the cost of making the reclamation, with interest at 8 per cent. The defendants' solicitors declined to assent, but said their clients were prepared to assign an equitable proportion to the owner of Sections B and D. After further correspondence, the defendants' solicitors wrote to the solicitors for the plaintiffs, on February 5th, 1903, saying:—"According to our minds there can be no possible doubt as to the construction of the Praya Ordinance and that the Crown Lessee of Marine Lot, 53 A, is the only person recognised by the Governor in his agreement with such Crown Lessee, to carry out the Reclamation, and that he is a trustee in respect of the lots of land or sections thereof for himself and for the owners of the other sections of the Marine Lot. Do you agree that this is so? It seems to us that the only decree either of us could get under the Praya Reclamation Ordinance would be that each of our clients is entitled to an equitable proportion of the lot which we have already offered you. There is no object, therefore in stating a special case. The only matter that, requires settlement is to ascertain what is the equitable proportion." &c. &c. To this letter the plaintiffs' solicitor replied, on 6th February, 1903, that they claimed for their clients "the whole" and continue as follows:—"We think that there is no possible doubt as to the construction of the Praya Reclamation Ordinance and we are advised that the effect of the Ordinance is to give to owners of sections fronting the old Praya, of Marine Lots, the entire Reclamations in front of such sections. You, however, are contending that the owners of back sections of Marine Lots are entitled to share in such reclamations." They then suggest stating a special case for decision. Later on, it appears, that what the defendants considered the equitable proportion and were prepared to assign, was a block of 837 square feet out of the 5,853 in dispute. The parties could not agree, and after further correspondence between the defendants' solicitors and the Colonial Secretary, the defendants were permitted, at their request, to enter into a possessory agreement for the reclamation on condition that they gave a fresh undertaking to the same effect as Chu Chuen's previous undertaking, "namely, either to assign an equitable proportion of the Reclamation or to pay an equivalent in money to the owners of Sections B and D and also to indemnify the Government against all claims which may hereafter be made respecting the Reclamation." Now, I hold, that Chu Chuen's claim was founded upon a misconception of the true construction of the Praya Reclamation Ordinance. It is clear that he pressed that claim strongly on the Government when there had been no decision of the Courts upon the point to guide the Government, and was only allowed to sign the agreement on condition that he gave an undertaking certainly intended to have the effect of preventing the just claims of others being ignored and not intended to decide the respective merits either of his claim or that of the frontagers, and, indeed, in his letter of 4th March, 1903, to the plaintiffs' solicitors, the Colonial Secretary expressly said "I am directed to inform you that the Governor has no power under the Reclamation Ordinance 1889 to settle disputes of title. Such disputes must be settled by the parties themselves." It is of course the province of the Court and not that of the Governor to decide the true construction of the Ordinance. The first question to decide then is, to what portion of the disputed reclamation Yiu Chow was entitled as frontager. My answer is "the whole." That being so, has Yiu Chow or have the plaintiffs as his representatives so conducted themselves in the matter as to make it unfair and inequitable that the defendants should be held trustees for the whole? It seems to me

that, if the plaintiffs are willing to refund with interest at 8 per cent. the \$2,000 paid by Chu Chuen to Mr. M. J. Stephens and the money contributed by Chu Chuen and the defendants towards the cost of making the Praya, I ought to decree that the Crown Lease of the whole disputed portion of the Reclamation ought to be granted (on payment of any further contribution that may become due as final settlement of the Praya Reclamation accounts) to the plaintiffs or, if granted to the defendants, that the land must be held by them in trust for the plaintiffs. As regards costs, I think the plaintiffs' predecessor was to blame for not showing more diligence in asserting his rights during his life time, and allowing himself to be overborne by Chu Chuen's vigorous assertion of his claims. I also consider the defendants' predecessor to have been wrong in his construction of the Ordinance. I therefore decide that each side should bear its own costs.

Monday, 28th March.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR WILLIAM M. GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE.)

A. BISMARCK & CO. CASE.

Kwong Kam Chuen, Kwong Sin Hing, Lau Chung Ming, and Pui Cheong, trading as the Hop Sing Tong, sued Kwok Chiu Hin for \$4,000 in respect of money alleged to be due on promissory notes. Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C. (instructed by Mr. E. J. Grist, of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist, solicitors), appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C. (instructed by Mr. G. K. Hall Brutton, solicitor), for the defendant. In the statement of claim the plaintiffs recited that they carried on business at 18, Connaught Road. Plaintiffs at the date of the issue of the writ carried on business under the style of the Hop Sing Tong, and formerly carried on business in partnership with the defendant in Hongkong and at Port Arthur and Dalny under the name of Bismark and Co. On 30th May, 1903, plaintiffs and defendant dissolved partnership on the terms that the defendant should give up his interest in the business of Bismark and Co. in Hongkong and the plaintiffs should take over from the defendant their entire interest in the business in Port Arthur and Dalny and pay plaintiffs \$25,000. In pursuance of this agreement and in part payment of the sum of \$25,000, defendant gave to the plaintiffs two promissory notes dated 31st May, 1903, for \$2,000 each, payable one month after date and entered into sole possession of the business and property at Dalny and Port Arthur. Defendant had not paid to the plaintiffs the amount secured by these promissory notes, and they claimed \$4,000 accordingly.

Mr. Sharp, K.C., having opened the case, Hon. Mr. Pollock, K.C., said he had to apply on behalf of the defendant for leave to enter the case at this stage.

His Lordship pointed out that as the necessary papers and affidavits had not been timeously lodged by the defendant he would be setting a very dangerous precedent if he allowed the defendant entry to the case at that stage. Defendant knew the case was coming on, and he had written asking his learned colleague and himself to proceed to judgment in his absence.

Formal evidence having been given.

His Lordship gave judgment for the plaintiffs with costs.

TIENTSIN GAS CO., LD.

Hon. H. E. Pollock, K.C. (instructed by Mr. H. J. Gedge, of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes & Master, solicitors), appeared in support of an application by the Tientsin Gas Company for confirmation of certain resolutions passed by the company for change of name and increase of capital. By these special resolutions passed and confirmed by the company in accordance with section 50 of the Companies Ordinance of Hongkong, No. 1 of 1865, at extraordinary meetings held respectively on 16th and 31st December, 1903, it was resolved that clause 3 of the memorandum of association be altered by substituting for sub-clause A a sub-clause empowering the Company to manufacture, sell, and supply any kind of illuminant in the

foreign concessions and settlements of Tientsin, Tientsin Native City, Peking, Tongku, Taku, Tongshan, Peitaiho, Chingwantao, Shanhaikwan, and any other city open or close between or in the neighbourhood of any of the said places or elsewhere in North China, and to carry on the business of a gas or oil or electric light works in all their branches and to manufacture or generate gas, electricity, or any other form of illuminant. By the resolutions sub-clauses rendered necessary to give effect to the foregoing clause were also added; also clauses increasing the capital of the company from \$50,000 Tientsin sycee to \$250,000 Tientsin sycee by the issue of 2,000 shares of \$100 each, and altering the name of the company to the Tientsin Gas and Electric Light Co., Ltd.

His Lordship made an order confirming the resolution.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE.)

PROMISSORY NOTES CASE.

His Lordship gave judgment for the defendant, without costs, in the case in which Hop Yick sued Li Sing Fan, of the Li Wing Fat Tseung Kee firm, for \$1,000 alleged to be due on two promissory notes both dated 8th January, made by the defendant, payable to the plaintiff on 17th January, 1904. Mr. H. Hursthouse, of Messrs. Dennys and Bowley, solicitors, represented the plaintiff, and Mr. John Hastings, solicitor, the defendant.

Thursday, 31st March.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR WILLIAM M. GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE.)

ABSCONDING DEBTORS.

Re the Ching Hang firm, *ex parte* the Joo Tek Sang firm, Mr. P. W. Goldring, of Mr. John Hastings's office, appeared in support of an application for adjudication on the debtors' estate. He also applied on behalf of the same applicants for adjudication on the estate of the Chi Loong firm.

His Lordship asked if there had been any statement of accounts filed?

Mr. Goldring said that in both cases the debtors had disappeared from the Colony.

Mr. Bruce Shepherd, Official Receiver, stated that in the first case he had made enquiries and had found out that the debtors had left behind them a cook, whom they had informed that they would be absent for a couple of months. In the case of the Chi Loong there were more partners. He understood that owing to some contract which they had entered into they were being prevented from returning to Hongkong.

His Lordship made an order of adjudication in both cases.

C. E. LE MUNYON.

Mr. E. J. Grist, of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist, solicitors, appeared in support of an application by the New York Export and Import Company for adjudication on the estate of C. E. Le Munyon, photographer. He stated that Le Munyon's act of bankruptcy was that he had absented himself from the Colony and had suffered execution to be levied against him by seizure of his goods, which had been sold.

His Lordship—Any assets?

Mr. Grist—About \$4,000.

His Lordship made an adjudication order.

Manila prides itself on being up-to-date. We read in the *Sunday Sun*:—Miss Molly Bentley gained the approval of Orpheum patrons last week by administering chastisement to the editor of a local sporting weekly, which she did, I am informed, in truly sportsmanlike fashion. The patrons of the Orpheum have not been at all in sympathy with the so-called criticisms of this rather erratic young man, whose criticisms (so-called) of the performers seem to have been based more upon his own personal feeling, or ill-feeling, for them, than upon their real ability or lack of it. Therefore, I am sorry to say, they had little sympathy with him.

LICENSING COURT.

A meeting of Justices of the Peace was held on the 28th ult. at the Magistracy to dispose of application of licences for the Hotel America, Wyndham Street, the Connaught Hotel, Queen's Road, and the Windsor Garden and Restaurant, 3, Wongneicheong Road. Mr. T. Sercombe Smith presided, and the other Justices present were Messrs. H. H. J. Gompertz, E. R. Hallifax, A. Rumjahn, J. H. Kemp, P. W. Sergeant, A. Shelton Hooper, W. H. T. Davis, and C. D. Melbourne. Chief Detective-Inspector J. W. Hanson was in attendance.

HOTEL AMERICA.

This was an application from one Fred Nolte for an adjunct licence to sell and retail intoxicating liquors on the premises situated at No. 2, Wyndham Street, under the sign of "Hotel America."

Mr. G. K. Hall Brutton, solicitor, appeared for the applicant. The premises, he stated, were situated on the top floor of the old German Club, and it was the intention of the applicant to carry on the business of a private hotel. There was accommodation for 33 guests, and it would be apparent to all the Justices that it would be a great convenience to him if he was permitted this licence so as to enable him to supply liquors to his guests with their meals. The nearest fully licensed hotels were the Hongkong Hotel and King Edward Hotel, and he submitted that this adjunct licence would in no way interfere with their business. There was a boarding-house in the neighbourhood with an adjunct licence, but it was quite of a different class to the Hotel America, where the charges were somewhere about \$10 a day for each person. In the busy season many people were unable to get rooms at the King Edward or Hongkong Hotels, and he was sure it would be admitted that the Hotel America would be a convenience to tourist visitors.

There were no police objections.
The application was granted.

CONNAUGHT HOTEL.

This was an application from one Frederick Bishop for an adjunct licence to sell and retail intoxicating liquors on the premises situated at No. 13, Queen's Road Central, under the sign of "The Connaught House."

Mr. P. W. Goldring, solicitor, of Mr. John Hasting's office, appeared on behalf of the applicant. He said Mr. Bishop had been engaged by the proprietors of the hotel in succession to Mr. G. J. Clark, who was still on the premises, but was leaving on the 30th of this month.

Mr. Clark (who was present in Court) stated that he appeared in opposition to this application.

The Chairman said he would be heard presently.

Mr. Goldring, continuing, stated that Mr. Bishop had previously held a licence for Thomas's Grill Room, and there had been no complaints against him. The difficulty that appeared to arise in respect to this licence was as to whether it could be granted to the present applicant while Mr. Clark held the licence. He could not find anything in the Ordinance showing that two licences could not be granted at the same time for the same hotel. The difficulty had arisen because Mr. Clark had declined to acquiesce in the transfer. The Justices were bound to look after the interests of the owners, if the licence was unsatisfactory.

The Chairman did not think the Justices had any power to cancel the licence.

Mr. Goldring repeated that the application was made in this form because Mr. Clark refused to consent to the transfer. If it was held that the Justices had no power to cancel the existing licence he would ask that the two licences be granted at the same time; there was nothing contrary to this in the Ordinance. Mr. Clark would after the 30th be in the position of a trespasser, and he might be liable to be ejected from the premises.

Mr. Shelton Hooper asked which licence would be liable in the case of an offence against the licence being committed next week.

Mr. Goldring replied that it would be the one that allowed the fault to be committed and was

on the premises. If there were two, both would be liable. It seemed a monstrous thing in a case like this, that if the owners had an unsatisfactory employee and wanted to turn him out they could not get in a fresh manager as was necessary to the licence. That could not be the spirit of the law, and the only way was to grant this application and to leave the owners to deal with Mr. Clark in the best way they could according to the law.

The Chairman said he had received from Mr. Clark a letter dated 26th inst. stating that this application had been made without his authority, and that he had no desire at present to transfer the licence to Mr. Bishop or any other person.

Mr. Clark, on being asked if he desired to make any statement, said he held the licence for these premises, and by that licence was not allowed to desert them.

The Chairman, having inspected the licence, pointed out that the words used were, "The licensee shall not abandon the occupation of his house," and said the only effect of this was that if he did so Mr. Clark would be subject to a penalty under the Ordinance. He did not see how that affected the Justices.

Mr. Clark—I do not think they could eject me from the premises.

The Chairman—Well, that is not a matter for us.

Mr. Clark—I have to all intents and purposes paid \$960 for this licence.

The Chairman—It was the proprietor of the hotel who paid it.

Mr. Clark—He has paid it in consideration for me.

In reply to Mr. Shelton Hooper.

Mr. Clark said his terms of agreement were that he was engaged on monthly terms as manager; he had received a month's notice.

The Justices afterwards considered the matter in private. When the Court was again made public.

The Chairman stated that the Justices felt themselves in some difficulty in the matter and had decided to adjourn it for a week. At the end of that time they desired the proprietor and the new applicant to come before them again and explain the then position of affairs; and if the Justices considered it a satisfactory one and one on which they could grant the licence to the new applicant they would further consider the matter.

WINDSOR GARDEN.

This was an application from one Frederick Huber for an adjunct licence to sell and retail intoxicating liquors on the premises situated at No. 3, Wongneicheong Road, under the sign of "Windsor Garden and Restaurant."

Hon. H. E. Pollock, K. C. (instructed by Mr. M. J. D. Stephens, solicitor), appeared in support of the application.

The Chairman read a numerous signed petition asking that the licence be granted.

Hon. Mr. Pollock said the applicant was carrying on a restaurant business at these premises. He asked simply for an adjunct licence, so that he could supply liquors along with meals to his customers. The premises were about a mile from the nearest hotel and about half-a-mile from No. 1 Police Station. Applicant had served 12 years in the army and had held a beer and spirit licence afterwards in India. His discharge showed that he bore an exemplary character, and he came before them with such a record as would at all events justify the Justices in giving him a trial. If the licence were granted now it would come up for renewal on or before the 30th November. Of late years there were increasing numbers of people who travelled down to Happy Valley to see the sports and games and enjoy the scenery. The applicant was content to have the licence extending from 10 a.m. till 7 p.m., and would undertake to light Wongneicheong Road with electricity, to build a permanent structure to replace the present temporary one, and to have watchmen, or even to engage two policemen from the Government, so that order should be maintained.

Mr. Hallifax stated that there were police objections. Before the licence was granted there should be a suitable structure, and similar applications had been refused before.

After considering the matter in private the Justices refused the application.

This was all the business.

MR. SERCOMBE SMITH AND THE POLICE INSPECTORS.

EFFICACY OF THE STOCKS.

On the 30th ult. Mr. T. Sercombe Smith made his last appearance as Senior Magistrate at the Police Court before taking up the duties of Puisne Judge during the absence of Mr. Justice Wise on leave. Before severing his connection with the Magistracy his Worship acceded to the request of the Inspectors of Police that he should allow them to address him. The ceremony took place in the Large Court. Mr. Sercombe Smith was accompanied by Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz, his successor in the office of Senior Magistrate. There were present Chief Detective-Inspector J. W. Hanson, Chief Inspector H. G. Baker, Inspectors D. McDonald, W. L. Ford, D. D. Cunthbert, P. McNab, W. G. Warnock, J. Gauld, A. Collett, W. Withers, D. Gourlay, J. Kerr, and A. C. Langley.

Mr. J. W. Hanson, addressing Mr. Sercombe Smith, said the Inspectors of the Police Force had decided that, when his Worship was leaving that Court, they should not allow the opportunity to pass without saying a few words to him, and they had gathered there now for that purpose. They would congratulate him first of all on his advancement, and then they wished to thank him for the help and advice that he had afforded to them in the past. When they had had to come before him with cases they had found and they were unanimously agreed that he had been a help to them in pointing out points of law with which they were not familiar, and in helping them through with their cases. It had been said that "A policeman's life was not a happy one," and he would take that opportunity of remarking that there was after all a certain amount of satisfaction, if they could not call it happiness, in enjoying the confidence of their superiors and of the public. They wished to be dreaded by the criminal and respected by the law-abiding people of this Colony. When they had brought their cases into Court they had been honestly trying to do their duty, and therefore all the help he had afforded them had been a help to their Department and to them individually and severally; and they wished now to thank him on that last occasion on which he was on the Bench for all the help and the advice he had afforded them. (Applause.)

Mr. Sercombe Smith in reply said he was exceedingly obliged to the Inspectors for the kind way in which Mr. Hanson had addressed him on that occasion. He knew he was only going to act for a short time, perhaps for a year, but he could not be in two places at the same time, and though it was with some feelings of regret that he left that place it was also with certain feelings of gratification that he took up the higher post. Mr. Hanson had adverted to the help and advice which they were pleased to say he had from time to time given to them. Well, he hoped no man in the Force who came to him would ever find him remiss in giving help or advice. Any advice he had been able to give to them had been given with the greatest pleasure because he knew that their training had not been such as to make them in all cases entirely conversant with every point of law. Of course he did not profess himself to be so conversant with the law as to be able to decide every point that arose. But wherever he had found that a case had been wrongly laid or that some advice was desirable on the procedure of the Court he had never failed to point out any slips that had been made or the alterations that were necessary in procedure. And when he gave help and advice of that kind of course it helped him immensely also, because it prepared the way for a proper and accurate hearing of a case. Mr. Hanson had also referred to the saying that "a policeman's life is not a happy one." Well, it had not been much in his power to render that life happier, but he had tried to make them as comfortable and as happy in the proceedings of that Court as in its general surroundings he was able to do, and if it had in any way helped towards the pleasure of the Force appearing before the Police Court he felt that he was very well rewarded. He was

bound to say that when he came there in July last there was a large quantity of crime in the Colony, and he was one of those who believed that the Chinese community of Hongkong—the resident Chinese community—was a law-abiding and very respectable community, and there were very few persons addicted to crime or petty offences amongst the resident Chinese population. And he had always held the opinion that they, alike with the Europeans, would greet with pleasure and joy any attempt to diminish crime in their midst. That of course had led him to reintroduce the stocks and to pass certain sentences of some severity, but the sentences which were severe were sentences which were passed upon persons who had been previously convicted. He was happy to say that the late Governor, Sir Henry Blake, at the end of his time, and the present Officer Administering the Government, during his time, had recognised the fact that the only way to keep down crime in the Colony was to banish from the Colony people who came down here simply for the purpose of making a raid and getting away with what they could get. As a result of the measures which he had taken—the stocks, and primarily and essentially banishment—and by means of the co-operation of the police, he was glad to say that the work for him and for his colleagues during the last five or six months had been very much diminished. In fact if they spoke to the reporters it would be found that the latter when they came to the Police Court had very often to go away without getting anything. He was very much obliged to the Inspectors, and he thought it was a very high honour to meet them spontaneously in this manner. All he could say was that he hoped his successors with their assistance would be able to keep down crime, and he was sure that if the police wanted any help Mr. Gompertz and Mr. Kemp would be only too glad to render it to them. Before he went he might say that he had that morning written to the Captain Superintendent of Police asking him to convey to all sections of the Force his appreciation of the services they had done to him as a Magistrate. (Applause.)

The proceedings then ended.

THE SENIOR MAGISTRATE AND THE SANITARY STAFF.

On the conclusion of business in the Senior Magistrate's Court on Thursday morning, Mr. T. Sercombe Smith, addressing Senior Inspector Lambie, representing the Sanitary Department, said:—Mr. Lambie, it gives me great pleasure on leaving this Court to express my high appreciation of the discretion, tact, and ability shown by the members of the Sanitary Staff who have had to transact business here, and I would be glad if you would so inform them. I regret that I am unable to thank them collectively for the great help they have given me in dealing with the new Ordinance.

WATKINS LIMITED.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The ordinary annual meeting of the shareholders in Watkins, Limited, was held on the 26th ult. in the Company's office, Queen's Road. Mr. Chan A Fook presided, and there were also present Messrs. G. A. Watkins, J. W. Osborne, A. R. Ezekiel, Wong Leung Him, Tsang Ng Sai, and Tsang Yut Kai.

The notice convening the meeting having been read, the CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, the report and accounts have now been in your hands for some days, I presume you have no objection to their being taken as read. The volume of business done by the Company during last year was slightly better than 1902. Your general managers, however, consider it advisable to write off larger sums for depreciation rather than increase the dividend, which the slightly larger nett profit made, viz. \$14,389.12 against previous year's \$12,524.74, would permit. So far, the current year's business also shows encouraging increase, due, no doubt, to the enhanced position of our new premises, which were occupied by us in October last. Turning to the accounts, I would like to say a word or two in explanation. Regarding "Accounts Payable" \$16,179.65, these repre-

sent local bills at the end of December, all of which have since been paid. The large sum appearing at debit of furniture and fixtures is for cost of new fittings from England, electric light and gas installations, also for various improvements to the building introduced since the contract was signed. Our stock on hand is about \$23,000 more than 1902, which is due to our increased business and larger premises. Our aerated water factory is in excellent working order, and the demand for our products increasing. The factory, which used to be in Mason's Lane, is now attached to this building and is, therefore, constantly under the personal supervision of the general managers, a change, I may add, that is most desirable. The structure known as Watkins' Building has been erected with funds raised on mortgage of the building and on the personal guarantee of the general managers, for which the company has not been charged with any commission. At the present moment the company is receiving rents nearly sufficient to pay off the monthly instalments of capital and interest, so that we have the use of the whole of the ground floor of this building at a nominal figure. Gentlemen, I may tell you that if we have more capital we will be able to do more business, and consequently earn larger profits, thus enabling us to pay you larger dividends. It is, of course, for you to decide whether to increase the capital or not. Before proposing the adoption of the accounts, I shall be glad to answer any questions shareholders may wish to ask.

There being no questions,

The CHAIRMAN formally moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. A. R. EZEKIEL seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN—Dividend warrants will be ready on Monday and shareholders are requested to apply for them. This is all the business; thank you for your attendance.

CHINESE INSURANCE CO., LD.

GENERAL MEETING.

A general meeting of the Chinese Insurance Co., Ltd., was held on the 26th ult. at the office of the Hon. Sir Paul Chater, Victoria Buildings, Queen's Road, for the purpose of receiving from the liquidator a final report together with the statement of a counts to 31st December, 1903.

Mr. J. Goosmann, liquidator, presided, and there were also present Sir Paul Chater, Messrs. H. N. Mody, A. Haupt, E. Ormiston, A. J. Raymond, W. S. S. Sassoon, Lau Wai Chuen, T. P. Cochrane, T. I. Rose, F. M. de Graça, J. M. de Graça, E. Georg, and C. W. May.

The Chairman said—Gentlemen, with your permission we will take the report and accounts in your hands as read. Further, I do not know of very much to add, the liquidation of the Chinese Insurance Co., Ltd., having become quite ancient history, already dating back as far as 1888. It was only in 1892, however, that I was placed in charge of the affairs of this company. The bulk of the liquidation was finished at that time, and I had only to watch when I might consider it prudent to distribute the small remaining assets amongst the shareholders. A few claims, which were not recovered under the agreement with the London syndicate, were also brought forward. As you will notice from the statement of accounts, I have had to make good the loss on one Japanese loan bond. The bond was sold in the London market in July, 1891, when it was afterwards discovered that the bond had been drawn already in April, 1891, and after taking due advice I could not but admit the claim. The claim paid per *Pemport* was originally put forward with £106:17:8, but after a good deal of correspondence I managed to compromise matters by paying £150. A few other small claims I have succeeded in refusing altogether. I might add that the original liquidators, Messrs. F. Dodwell and St. C. Michaelsen, in their report of the 23rd January 1892, expressed the hope that the return of capital would probably be \$11 per share, which you will find in a way has been realised, and I now beg to propose the adoption of the report and statement of accounts, trusting that one of the gentlemen present will second this.

Sir PAUL CHATER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN proposed the following resolution:—"To those shareholders who make a written application to the liquidator, Mr. J. Goosmann, on or before the 2nd day of April, 1904, \$1 or a fraction of same will be returned per share, and any balance remaining after payment of auditor's fee, printing and petty expenses, is to be transferred to the credit of the liquidator."

Mr. T. I. ROSE seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

This was all the business.

SPORTING NOTES.

(Daily Press 26th March.)

For Hongkong sport, this is practically the last day of the season. The principal lawn tennis tournament has still to come, of course, and bowling, golfing, and yachting go on. But cricket and football, the leading games of our winter and spring, are at their last gasp, so to speak. The H.K.C.C. brings its match list to an appropriate end with a game against a fifteen chosen from the United League. As originally selected the League side included three players each from the A.O.C., Civil Service C.C., and H.K.C.C. Reserves, two each from the Craigen-gower C.C. and R.E., and one each from the R.A.M.C. and Parsee C.C. Piper, however, has left the Colony, and Goldring is unable to play, so that another A.O.C. and another R.E. man have been brought in to fill the vacancies created by the defection of the two Club Reserves. The fifteen is strong all round—if it rises to the occasion in fielding—and has in particular a good variety of bowling talent. The H.K.C.C. should have its work cut out for it, but as its chosen team includes six of the last Interport XI. (among whom is Lumsden), one former Interport player, two of the best bats in the China squadron, as well as Lieut. Heath and William Dixon, it should take the field with considerable confidence.

Though the cricket season, as I have said, virtually comes to an end to-day, there is still one League game, H.K.C.C. Reserves v. R.A.M.C., to be decided. The 2nd April is the date fixed for this match.

Football is already finished. The final of the Shield competition marked the end of the Association season, for apparently, as was the case last year, we are to have no "International" match. Does this indicate a decay of patriotism? Or is it rather a sign of a surfeit of football? There used to be some keenness in the past over Scotland v. The World and such games. An interesting match might be got up between Army and Navy under the Association code, if it were not so late in the season and were the Navy not deserting us soon. In the history of the Hongkong Challenge Shield Army teams have won the trophy four times—"G." Co., K.O.R., in 1898, "G." Co. Welsh Fusiliers, in 1900, Siege Train in 1901, and "A." Co., Welsh Fusiliers, in 1902. Naval teams have won three times—H.M.S. *Centurion* in 1897, H.M.S. *Glory* in 1903, and H.M.S. *Albion* in 1904. The solitary civilian success, was the H.K.F.C.'s in 1899. The Club will want considerable reinforcing before it is likely to repeat its performance. In three of the last 4 years it has had the making of a good team, but has always been weak in one spot, though that spot has varied from the forwards to the backs. Naval teams are in the ascendant just now, and the *Albion's* triumph was consistent with the ship's form in the Naval League on this station, which it heads at present. The *Albion* and *Cressy* meet in that competition to-day.

The defeat of the Rugby section of the H.K.F.C. on Thursday was anticipated, for the Navy has a wonderfully strong lot to select from now. However the Club was not disgraced, though but for Pearce's good play the margin against them must have been considerably more than the actual 2 points—the difference between a dropped goal and two tries. By the way, I wonder how long it will be before all

goals are reduced to the value of 2 points, however obtained. There is a movement in Rugby Union ranks in favour of it, and the Northern Union, of course, adopted this system of scoring long ago. By it tries count 3 points. If converted an extra 2 points is added, as now, while dropped goals and all other goals equally score 2 points. This attaches the highest value to a try, which seems right, as try-getting is the strongest proof of a team's superiority over its adversaries.

The Shanghai Spring Race Meeting will be held on the 3rd, 4th, and 5th of May. On each day there will be ten events. The Shanghai Gold Challenge Cup, value 500 guineas, will be run for on the first day; the Shanghai Derby, value Tls. 750, on the second day; and the Champion Sweepstakes, value Tls. 800, on the third day. There will be a steeplechase on the off day.

With the return of Captain Badelay it is to be hoped that more interest will be taken in sport in Police circles than has been evinced during the past season. When the Cricket League was arranged, the Police made an effort to get up a team, but the attempt was unsuccessful. Throughout the League matches Lander, Deveney, and Pitt, of the Police, have done good service for the Civil Service Club, and there are other members of the Force who could be counted upon to constitute a strong team next season. In Shanghai the Police have a very strong cricket team.

OMPAX.

CRICKET.

H.K.C.C. V. UNITED LEAGUE XV.

The Club gained a meritorious victory on the 26th ult. over a fifteen selected from the Cricket League clubs. The margin in the winners' favour was 31 runs. Neither of the military players chosen for the Club was able to appear, and their places were given to Irwin and Batchellor. The Club won the toss and went in against fifteen in the field, which naturally made run-getting unusually hard. A wretched start was made, and at tiffin-time the score was 54 for 4 wickets, H. Hancock being then associated with Ward. After the resumption the tail did considerably better than the beginning; but as a matter of fact, there was very little tail in the team. R. Hancock headed the list with a 33, not out, and with 7 double-figure innings in all the total amounted to 162. The League tried 8 bowlers, of whom Rutherford had the best figures. The XV on going in made a much better start than the Club, and had the 50 up with only one wicket down; after that, however, the bowling proved too good, and only 131 was reached finally. Sergt.-Major Webb's 38 was the top score of the match. Scores and analysis:—

H.K.C.C.

Eng.-Com. Garde, R.N., b Herton	3
T. Sercombe Smith (capt.), b R. Witchell	7
William Dixon, not out	4
Eng.-Lt. E. Moore, R.N., c & b R. Witchell	11
A. G. Ward, c Kew, b Bradford	20
H. Hancock, b Bradford	20
A. Irwin, R.N., c Tillman, b Brawn	12
C. R. S. Cooper, c Webb, b Rutherford	9
R. E. O. Bird, run out	18
R. Hancock, not out	33
F. H. Batchelor, R.N., c Witchell, b Rutherford	13
Extras	12

Total 162

UNITED LEAGUE XV.

Sergt.-Major Webb, A.O.D., c Bird, b Moore	38
P. T. Lambie, st Garde, b Wm. Dixon	12
Capt. P. G. Davies, A.O.D. (capt.), c and b Wm. Dixon	7
Hon. J. M. Atkinson, c Ward, b Cooper	5
R. Witchell, b Cooper	0
A. O. Brawn, c and b R. Hancock	10
F. Kew, c Batchelor, b Smith	16
Sergt. Tillman, R.E., c Cooper, b Moore	0
N. Rutherford, c Garde, b R. Hancock	5
E. R. Herton, b R. Hancock	0
T. H. Raven, R.E., c Batchelor, b R. Hancock	0
D. Noris, b Smith	16
Sergt. Skinner, A.O.C., st Moore, b Wm. Dixon	8
Sergt. Bradford, A.O.C., b Smith	8
— Williams, R.A.M.C., not out	0
Extras	6

Total 131

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

H.K.C.C.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Bradford	20	6	39	2
Herton	11	2	25	1
Witchell	9	1	38	2
Williams	3	—	11	—
Rutherford	5.3	2	15	2
Brawn	4	1	8	1
Lambie	2	—	6	—
Davies	4	1	8	—

UNITED LEAGUE XV.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Wm. Dixon	13.2	2	35	3
Sercombe Smith	8	—	23	3
Cooper	9	1	33	2
R. Hancock	6	—	12	4
Moore	3	1	14	—
Bird	3	4	8	—

FOOTBALL.

H.M.S. "ALBION" V. H.M.S. "CRESSY."

This Navy League match, under Association rules, was played at Happy Valley on the 26th ult. afternoon, there being but a poor attendance, considering the reputation of the teams. The game was won by the *Albion*, which is now the winner of the Navy League as well as of the Hongkong Challenge Shield. The *Cressy* kicked off against the wind, the *Albion* at once working the ball up the right wing. Foreman shot, but sent the ball behind. The *Cressy* then brought the ball into the other half, Bridge shooting without favourable result. A foul was given against the *Albion* men in their own half, Noyes taking the kick and placing well. A foul was next given in favour of the *Albion*. Thompson passed to Williams, when Martin, the *Cressy* half, secured possession, and made a fine kick from the right wing, heading the ball shortly afterwards. Noyes shot well from the opposite wing, Barr, the *Albion* goalkeeper, saving. The *Albion* retaliated Stanley passing to Williams, and the ball being sent into touch by a *Cressy* man. The *Cressy* taking a turn rushed up on the right side, Jackson giving the *Albion* a goal-kick. The *Albion* played harder than hitherto, there being quite a scrimmage around the *Cressy* goal. First of all the ball went behind off the post, and finally it was sent into net by Ball amid great cheering. *Cressy* gamely endeavoured to equalise, eventually securing a penalty kick. McCoy took the kick, Barr saving splendidly amid cheering. The *Albion* forged ahead with a skilful piece of combination in the centre, Williams shooting a little on the wrong side of the post. The *Cressy*, always ready to give as much as it took, attacked, Martin eventually heading the ball on to the top of the net—very hard lines. Smith (*Cressy* half) evaded a couple of opponents, play, notwithstanding, being to the *Albion*'s advantage. A corner was given on the *Albion* side Townsend kicking the leather behind. McGinnis passed to centre from the left wing, nothing noteworthy resulting. The *Albion* gained considerable ground, a kick by Holmes being followed by a header from Williams. After a little play by the *Cressy* the *Albion* went away again, Wallace scoring a splendid goal with a low stinging shot from the right wing. The *Albions* kept the play pretty much as they liked. Spencer passed to Williams, who was prevented from scoring. Williams shot from the left just before half-time. At half-time the score was 2—0 in favour of the *Albion*. On the re-start play remained in the *Cressy* half for a little, but the *Cressy* was the first to be dangerous. Townsend, on the left wing, lost a splendid opportunity of shooting into an open goal; he passed to centre instead. The *Albion* attacked, Ball and Foreman shooting. The *Cressy*, having repulsed the winners of the Shield, did some pretty work in mid-field, Bridge sending the ball behind. Williams passed to Foreman, who missed, but Thompson, at back, returned. The *Cressy* go away, Townsend serving Bridge, and the latter heading the ball over the cross-bar—hard lines again. The *Albion* drifted up the centre, slowly but surely, and McGinnis shot a goal. The *Cressy* once more to the fore, Thompson gave a corner. After another corner there was a goal kick, the *Albion* thereby recovering ground. Williams, Wallace, and Foreman had a lovely piece of foot-to-foot, when an off-side was given to the *Cressy*. The wind, in fitful gusts, freshened up into half a gale, greatly handicapping the *Albion*. They ousted the now

somewhat dispirited *Cressys* on several occasions. Ball had a long shot from the left, sending the ball behind on the opposite side. The *Cressy* got clean away, Macdonald scoring the first goal, and receiving great hand-clapping from the Stand. Next a corner was given on the *Cressy* side. The *Cressy* made another forward movement, Bridge losing the ball. A corner was given and McCoy shot, Barr saving beautifully by jumping. He saved again shortly afterwards in the same manner. The *Cressy* men were playing much better than previously, Jackson, it was thought by some, forcing Barr into net with the ball. A dispute arose as to whether it was a goal or not, judgment being finally given for the *Albion*. The *Cressy*, when they had but a minute to go, almost added a second goal, excitement being centred on McCoy. A long shrill blast from timekeeper's whistle ended the game too soon for the *Cressy*'s liking. At the time they were leading the *Albion* men quite a dance. The game resulted in a win for the *Albion* by 3—1.

The teams were:—

H.M.S. *Albion*.—Barr, goal; Thompson and Clive, backs; Stanley, Holmes, and Spencer halves; Forman, Wallace, Williams, Ball, and McGinnis, forwards.

H.M.S. *Cressy*.—Downing, goal; Martin and Briggs, backs; Macdonald, Smith, and Mills, halves; Noyes, Jackson, McCoy, Bridge and Townsend, forwards.

The *Cressy* had almost an equal share of play, but not one of their forwards could shoot worth his salt. Martin and McCoy, perhaps, played as well as anyone on their side. The *Albion* showed their usual combination, the wing-men, particularly, being very good. Williams displays excellent shooting powers.

HONGKONG SCHOOLS ATHLETIC SPORTS.

The following schools competed at an Athletic Sports meeting, held at the Racecourse, Happy Valley, on the 28th ult.:—Belilos Public School, Diocesan Boys' School, Diocesan Girls' School, Ellis Kadoorie School, Kowloon British School, Queen's College, Roman Catholic Cathedral School, S. Joseph's College, S. Paul's School, S. Stephen's College, and Wanchai Government School. The outing was conducted under the patronage of His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government, His Excellency Major-General Sir Villiers Hutton, K.C.B., The Right Rev. Bishop Hoare, The Right Rev. Bishop L. A. Piazzoli, Dr. G. H. Bateson Wright, Admiral Sir Gerard H. Noel, K.C.B., Sir W. Meigh Goodman, K.C., Sir H. Spencer Berkeley, K.C., Sir C. P. Chater, Kt., C.M.G., and Cavalheiro A. G. Romano. Messrs. R. E. O. Bird, C. R. S. Cooper, and H. Sykes were clerks of the course; Messrs. T. R. Dealy, B. James, and H. Sykes, starters; Messrs. B. Tanner, A. O. Brawn, Rev. Bro. Stephen, and G. P. de Martin, judges; Messrs. H. Sykes and B. Tanner handicappers; and Messrs. A. H. Crook and Rev. Bro. Stephen, official timekeepers. The weather, though sultry, was otherwise fine, conditions on the whole being favourable. There was a fair attendance, the Chinese element being very large. The band of the 93rd Burmas played various selections. At the close Sir W. M. Goodman, Chief Justice, distributed the prizes. The first event was at noon. Results as follows:—

LONG JUMP.—For boys up to 16 years of age. Three prizes presented by the Committee. There were 35 entries. J. da Rocha (age 14) was first; A. K. Rahman (age 15), second, and A. Baptista (age 12) third. Distance 16 feet.

100 YDS. FLAT RACE.—For boys from 10 to 13 years of age. Three prizes presented by the Committee. There were 80 entries. J. Castro (age 10) was first; C. Lopes (age 10) second; and Y. Mahomed (age 10) third.

100 YDS. FLAT RACE.—For boys from 13 to 16 years of age. Three prizes presented by the Committee. There were 44 entries, F. Curreem (age 13) was first; Y. Abbas (age 13) second; J. da Rocha (age 14) third. Time 1. seconds.

120 YDS. FLAT RACE (Handicap).—For boys from 7 to 10 years of age. Three prizes presented by the Committee. There were 42 entries. H. Castro (8 years) first; C. Loureiro (9 years)

second; A. Castro (7 years) third. Time 40 seconds.

1 MILE BICYCLE RACE (Handicap).—Open to all ages. Three prizes presented by the Committee. There were 49 entries. C. Bunge (13 years) was first; S. Lopes (12 years) second; R. Jalluzzi (15 years) third. Time 3 min. 49 secs.

HIGH JUMP.—For boys from 15 to 18 years of age. 1st prize, a silver cup presented by Messrs. Levy Hermanos; 2nd prize presented by the Committee. Sze Shin Kit won this contest, with Y. M. Juman second. Jump, 4 ft. 5 in.

220 YDS. FLAT RACE (Handicap).—Open to all ages. Three prizes presented by the Committee. A. M. Suffiad (13 years) was first; Y. Abbas (13 years) second; Y. M. Juman (15 years) third.

120 YDS. HURDLE RACE (Handicap).—Ten flights of 3ft. 6in. hurdles. For boys from 13 to 17 years of age. Three prizes presented by the Committee. There were 21 entries. A. E. Elles (13 years) first; J. da Rocha (14 years) second; A. G. Britto (14 years) third.

HIGH JUMP.—For boys from 10 to 15 years of age. Three prizes presented by the Committee. L. Ribeiro (14 years) first; J. Kwong Ning (14 years) second; J. da Rocha (14 years) third. Jump, 4 ft. 5 in.

100 YDS. FLAT RACE (Handicap).—For girls under 10 years of age. Three prizes presented by the Committee. Agnes Lee (9 years) won this race in 26 seconds; Mollie Mooney (9 years) second; E. Moonie (7 years) third.

100 YDS. FLAT RACE (Handicap).—For girls over 10 years of age. Three prizes presented by the Committee. W. White (10 years) finished in 15 seconds; M. Long (11 years) was second; A. Macdonald (11 years) third.

QUARTER MILE (Handicap).—Open to all ages. Three prizes presented by the Committee. Y. M. Juman (15 years) first; A. M. Suffiad (13 years) second; D. Soares (14 years) third. Time 1 min. 3 secs.

THROWING THE CRICKET BALL.—Open to all ages. 1st prize a cricket bat; 2nd a cricket ball; 3rd a prize. All presented by the Committee. A. Tinio threw the ball 85 yards; Chin Tien Shin was second; F. Macarandam third.

HALF-MILE CHALLENGE CUP.—For boys from 14 to 18 years of age. 1st prize, The "Chater Cup," presented by Sir C. P. Chater, C.M.G., to be won two years in succession before becoming the property of the competitor; 2nd and 3rd prizes presented by the Committee. Y. M. Juman first; M. Mahomed (16 years) second; C. Alarakia (14 years) third. Time 2 min. 25 secs.

SKIPPING RACE.—Open to girls only. Three prizes presented by the Committee. A. Lee (9 years) first; M. Long (11 years) second; W. White (10 years) third.

50 YDS. FLAT RACE (Handicap).—For all comers under 7 years of age. Two prizes presented by the Committee. L. Souza and G. George won the boys' race; and Nellie Vanstone and Eva Summers the girls race. The boy's time was 10 seconds.

300 YDS. FLAT RACE.—For Chinese boys over 14 years of age. 1st prize presented by the Committee; 2nd *Chums* presented by Messrs. Kelly and Walsh, Ltd. Sze Shin Kit (16 years) was first; Yeung Cheuk second. Time 41 seconds.

600 YDS. FLAT RACE (Handicap).—Open to all ages. Three prizes presented by the Committee. There were 55 entries. A. G. Suffiad (12 years) was first; C. Alarakia (14 years) second; F. Vidal (12 years) third.

SEVEN-FURLONG FLAT RACE (Handicap).—Open to past pupils only. Two prizes presented by the Committee. Six entries. J. H. Witchell (19 years) first; F. Duide (18 years) second; M. Gulam (19 years) third. Time 4 minutes 37 seconds.

100 YDS. THREE-LEGGED RACE.—Open to all ages. Two prizes presented by the Committee. F. Mootee and Lau Fuk Pui first; R. Lopes and J. Martin second.

100 YDS. EGG AND SPOON RACE.—Open to all ages. Three prizes presented by the Committee. A. G. Britto first; Wong Shin Cheung second; Hung In-fan third.

TWO MILE BICYCLE RACE (Handicap).—Open to past pupils only. First prize presented by the Committee; 2nd by Messrs. W. Brewer & Co. R. C. Witchell (20 years) first; J. Silva (18 years) second. Time 7 min. 48 secs.

NAVY, ARMY, AND POLICE RACE (European).—Prizes presented by the Committee. Chamber first; Baker second; Starvis third.

ARMY AND POLICE RACE (Asiatic).—Prizes presented by the Committee. Mehan Sing first; Marain Sing second; Ganga Sing third. J. da Rocha won the special prize for scoring the most marks.

R.G.A. REGIMENTAL SPORTS.

The 30th ult., the opening day of the Royal Garrison Artillery Regimental Sports, was not favoured with very fine weather, but if to-day, "the big day," is bright no one will mind. The Sports are being held on the Hongkong Football Club ground, where some half-a-dozen tents are scattered about the field. The various tracks are marked out with good stout poles and hemp rope, a flag here and there bringing the course out at a glance. The stand, in front of which is the finishing post, blackboard, etc., is gaily decorated with bunting. Included in to-day's events are tilting the bucket, which, of course, will cause considerable amusement; an obstacle race, in which the competitors will have to climb over bars, under canvas, and through barrels; a hurdle race, tug-of-war, team race, wheel race, trumpet-race, sack fight, four-legged race (teams of three men), band race, Balacava *melee* (in pairs, one man on another's back), boy-and-girl race, and many other interesting events. The sports are being conducted under the presidency of Capt. Nugent, R.G.A.; committee, Capt. Jones, R.G.A., Lieut. Miles, R.G.A., Lieut. Dowling, R.G.A., Lieut. Milman, R.G.A., and Lieut. Lumsden, R.G.A.; sub-committee, Sergt. Bottomley, Sergt. Fielder, Sergt. Ridley, and Sergt-Major Mills. Yesterday's work for the most part merely consisted of running off the preliminary heats. The long jump, high jump, and two competitions of putting the weight, however, were worked off. One of the competitions of putting the weight was for the Royal Garrison Artillery, the other for the Hongkong and Singapore Battalion of Royal Artillery. Muddat Kahn, a native of India belonging to the H.K.S.B.R.A., threw the shot 33 feet, or 2ft. 2in. farther than Hughes, the winner of the R.G.A. contest. Results as follows:—

LONG JUMP.—Three prizes. Donnelly, 83rd Co., first; Hughes, 78th Co., second; W. Brown, 83rd Co., third. Distance, 20ft. 10in.

HIGH JUMP.—Three prizes. This was a poor exhibition. Rivers, 83rd Co., first; Edgar, 78th Co., second; W. Smith, 78th Co., third.

PUTTING THE WEIGHT.—Three prizes. Hughes, 78th Co., first; Rivers, 83rd Co., second; Capper, 80th Co., third. Distance, 30ft. 10in.

PUTTING THE WEIGHT.—Open only to members of the Hongkong and Singapore Battalion of Royal Artillery. Three prizes. Muddat Kahn was first, Fazal Dad second, Pirna third. Distance, 33ft.

SECOND DAY.

The second (final) day of the R.G.A. sports, unlike the former day, was favoured with glorious weather. There was a fair attendance, quite a number of ladies being amongst the throng. We dealt with the sports so thoroughly on the 31st ult. that little remains to be said, except, of course, the results. The band of the Sherwood Foresters, under Bandmaster E. J. Bradley, played the following selections:—
March..... "Blaze Away"..... Holzmann
Lancers..... *Belle of New York*..... Kerker
Valse..... *Toreador*..... Royle
Selection..... *Three Little Maids*..... Rubens
Sketch..... "By the Swanee River" Myddleton
Selection..... *A Country Girl*..... Monckton
Two Step..... "Hiawatha"..... Moret
Lancers..... *Dorothy*..... Bucalossi
Valse..... "Midsummer"..... Marigold
Mrs. Kent presented the prizes. Results:—

1 MILE FLAT RACE.—Catterell (78th Co.), first; Chambers (78th Co.), second; Wood (78th Co.), third.

100 YARDS FLAT RACE.—Haing (80th Co.), first; Longman (80th Co.), second; H. Brown (83rd Co.), third.

TRUMPETER RACE.—Yeavis (28th Co.), first; Dillon (78th Co.), second.

QUARTER-MILE FLAT RACE.—Longman (80th Co.), first; Haing (80th Co.), second; Chambers (78th Co.) third.

HALF-MILE FLAT RACE.—Open to H.K.S. B.R.A. S. Mahomed, first; E. Bux, second; S. Din, third.

TILTING THE BUCKET.—Teams of two. Duleg and Cassidy, first; Fisher and Willshaw, second; West and Mandel, third.

WHEEL RACE.—Cullen (80th Co.), first; Connors (80th Co.), second; Piper (80th Co.), third.

1 MILE.—Open to R.N. and European Garrison and Police, Chambers (78th Co.), first; Cattrall (78th Co.), second; Witchell (Hongkong Volunteers), third.

SACK FIGHT.—Teams of 10. This was won by the 78th Co.

TUG OF WAR (final).—R.G.A. teams of 10; long pull. The 78th Co. were victorious.

VETERANS' RACE.—200 yards. 2 yards for every year above 12 minimum. Cullen (80th Co.), first; Thurlow, second.

HURDLE RACE.—With 3ft. 3in. hurdles, 120 yards, 10 flights. Connors (80th Co.), first; Longman (80th Co.), second; Macdonell (80th Co.), third.

4-LEGGED RACE.—Teams of 3 men. Smith and team (78th Co.), first; Fisher and team (80th Co.), second; Brown and team (83rd Co.) third.

SERGEANTS' RACE.—120 yards Handicap. Open to all members of R.G.A. Sergeants' Mess. 1 yard start for every year over 10 years' service. Gordon, first; Thurlow, second.

QUARTER-MILE.—Open to R.N., European Garrison and Police. Haing (80th Co.), first; Chambers (78th Co.), second; Fowles (80th Co.), third.

BALACAVA MELEE.—In pairs, one man on, another's back. This event was stopped after the men had torn the shirts off each other's backs, and looked dangerously like getting away with the pants. The prizes were divided between the three upstanding couples at that time:—Nicol and Starvis (80th Co.); Cambridge and Kinshler (78th Co.); Gibben and Bradbury (78th Co.).

TEAM RACE.—For teams of 4 drawn from 1 Company. Each man running $\frac{1}{4}$ mile. The 78th Co. was first; 83rd Co. second; 80th Co. third.

HALF-MILE FLAT RACE.—Longman (80th Co.), first; Chambers (78th Co.), second; Woods (78th Co.), third.

BOYS' AND GIRLS' RACE.—(R.G.A. only) under 10 years. Handicap, Henry Culler, first; Fairburg, second.

OBSTACLE RACE.—Longman (80th Co.), first; W. Brown (80th Co.), third; Macdonald (78th Co.), fourth; Davies (80th Co.), fifth.

TUG OF WAR (Final).—Sergeants. Married won.

TUG OF WAR (Final).—Open to teams drawn completely from a company R.G.A., European Regiment or any ship. The 78th Co. won this event.

TUG OF WAR (Final).—H.K.S.B.R.A. No. 3 Co. won this.

SACK RACE.—West (83rd Co.), first; W. Brown (83rd Co.), second; Gibbon (78th Co.), third; Davies (80th Co.), fourth.

BAND RACE.—220 yards Handicap. Handicapped by Band Master. Wootten, first; Naden, second; Turner, third.

OFFICERS' RACE.—Open. 120 yards, Handicap 1 yard for every year over 8 years' service. Prize, Cup. Kirkpatrick, R.A., first; Bretton Symmons, R.E., second; Hamilton, C.S.O., third.

HALF-MILE NATIVE RACE.—Open. G. Sing, first; K. Sha, second; H. Sing, third.

CONSOLATION RACE.—220 yards Flat. Open to unplaced competitors R.G.A. only. Cooper (80th Co.), first; Hardwick (78th Co.), second; Riley (78th Co.), third; Burrow (80th Co.), fourth.

The marks for the Royal Artillery Challenge Cup, 78th Co. carrying honours, were as follows:—

Events.	78 Coy.	80 Coy.	83 Coy.
Mile	20	—	—
Long Jump	4	—	8
Putting Weight	8	—	4
Hurdle Race	—	12	—
High Jump	4	—	8
100 yard flat	—	18	2
$\frac{1}{4}$ Mile flat	2	18	—
Tug of War	30	—	—
Obstacle Race	—	14	6
Team Race	30	—	—
Total	98	62	28

BOWLING.

HONGKONG CLUB v. THE NAVY.

The Navy, having beaten a Club team earlier in the month, on the 25th and 26th ult., challenged the full strength of the Hongkong Club. The result was a good match and a victory for the Club by 378. The winners had two changes from the team which defeated the Club Germania, W. A. Sims playing for W. B. Walker, who is out of practice, and H. Hancock coming in at the last moment for J. Hooper (who was indisposed) and doing very creditably. The feature of the match was Bonnar's excellent bowling, for he scored over 200 on all four alleys. Ford was very consistent for the Navy and had two scores over 200. He and Chater tied for the best score on one alley, each putting on 277 on No. 4. Hinds, Gray, and Vivian also had two scores each over 200. On Friday the Club led by 184 points; the final scores were as follows:—

CLUB.					
	1	2	3	4	Total
1—J. W. C. Bonnar	214	214	203	215	878
3—C. P. Chater	183	137	153	277	750
4—F. H. Hinds	224	130	210	176	740
6—T. C. Gray	208	204	130	189	731
7—F. Maitland	178	196	155	191	720
9—H. Hancock	161	188	144	187	680
12—W. A. Sims	195	132	161	144	632
15—J. E. Lee	168	114	113	132	527
Total					5,656
NAVY.					
	1	2	3	4	Total
2—Lt. Ford	229	167	142	277	815
5—Lt. Vivian	213	173	138	244	768
8—Lt. Gibson	193	116	177	226	712
10—Mr. Brown	163	151	141	183	638
11—Dr. Horley	141	156	140	200	637
13—Mr. Edwards	169	147	110	183	609
14—Lt. Warburg	169	133	119	189	610
16—Lt. Bosanquet	174	92	109	129	504
Total					5,278
Majority in favour of club					378

NEW JAPANESE EXPLOSIVE.

As is probably well known, the explosive used in the Japanese Navy bears the name of its inventor, Dr. Shimose. The destructive power of this explosive was demonstrated during the recent naval engagements. Two weeks ago, the inventor, Dr. Shimose, delivered a lecture in Tokyo, in which he explained the nature and use of the powder. We are indebted for the following report to the *Japan Times*:—

The inventor said that, according to their use, explosives were classified under two headings, namely those for mining and those for military purposes, the latter being again classified into those for discharging and those for destructive purposes. "Shimose" belonged to the latter category, and was never used for the purpose of discharging shots. The explosive used by the European Powers for warlike purposes was gun-cotton. But manifold inconveniences attended the use of gun-cotton. For instance, when dried too much, it exploded even by slight friction. In order to prevent this danger, it was necessary to combine it with water to the extent of 20 per cent., in which case it burned with difficulty when ignited. But when the water exceeded 20 per cent., gun-cotton would not explode. Again, owing to possible evaporation, the water contained in gun-cotton did not maintain an equal quantity, making its safety unstable. Sometimes it would become mouldy, thus losing most of its explosive power, which could not then be easily restored. At present the most powerful explosive in the world was blasting-gelatine, which was used by Americans, though not for military purposes. It was far superior to gun-cotton in destructive power, and could be quite safely handled in ordinary times. One defect, however, of gelatine was its easy freezing. Frozen gelatine would explode from the slightest cause, and this fact made it unfit for military purposes. The "Shimose" explosive was very simply constituted, but it was sufficiently safe to be used by the Navy.

Continuing, Dr. Shimose said neither the falling of an iron hammer upon it, nor ignition, nor the firing of a bullet into it would cause his explosive to explode. In such cases it would burn like turpentine, but the fire could be extinguished by a cupful of water. Combined

with a certain ingredient, it had sufficient explosive power for warlike purposes. Among the explosives in the world the American gelatine had the greatest destructive power; Shimose came next, gun-cotton and dynamite following in order. To illustrate the explosive power of Shimose, a small quantity placed upon an iron plate one or two inches thick, would, when exploded, perforate the plate for the area covered by the powder. At an experiment carried out at Kugenuma, Soshu, a 6-inch Shimose shot was fired at a coal store protected with armour plate similar to that of a certain cruiser. The shot made a hole of about three feet in diameter, whereas in the case of the ordinary shot the diameter of the hole was only 6 inches. It burst on contact with the plate, while the other exploded only when it had travelled about three feet after passing through the plate. The Shimose shell was blown into two or three thousand pieces, while the other broke up only into 10 or 15 fragments. This tremendous power was testified to by the fact that a bluejacket on the *Varyag* was struck by more than 160 fragments of shell. The placing of one such shot on a deck would mean the wounding of all the crew there. But the explosive was not intended for the killing of men, but for the destruction of war-ships. One more noteworthy feature of the Shimose powder, concluded the doctor, was the fact that its cost was about half that of gun-cotton.

HONGKONG.

Mr. P. W. Goldring has been appointed a member of the Committee for the Wongneichong and Queen's Recreation Grounds vice Mr. Frank Browne, resigned.

The *Moorhen*, Lieut. and Com. F. B. Noble, and *Teal*, Lieut. and Com. E. V. F. R. Dugmore, shallow-draught steamers, are to be recommissioned on the China Station with new crews sent from the Medway depot.

In the Council Chambers yesterday afternoon Mr. T. Sercombe Smith was sworn in as Puisne Judge to act during the absence of Mr. Justice Wise, who left for home on the 30th ult. Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz will act as Senior Magistrate and Mr. J. H. Kemp as Junior.

A rumour became current in the Colony yesterday of foul play having attended the death of Dr. James B. Menzies (47), ship's doctor of the *Glenurret*, whose dead body was found at the corner of Carnarvon and Robinson Roads, Kowloon, on Saturday night. The report supplied by the police is that death was due to an apoplectic fit.

The Portuguese gun-boat *Diu*, Capt. D. F. de Sa, arrived from Macao on the 30th ult., having left that port on the 29th ult. She experienced fine weather. The British s.s. *Hunan* arrived from the North yesterday, having left Tientsin on the 21st inst. Weihaiwei on the 26th inst. She brought 17 British bluejackets from Weihaiwei to Hongkong. Capt. Frozier reports strong N.E. wind and rain.

New gun-carriages for H.M.S. *Cressy* arrived here from Portsmouth on the 29th ult. by the s.s. *Glenartney*. As they are rather weighty affairs it is likely that they will be discharged from the freighter and placed aboard the cruiser by means of the Dock Co.'s or Godown Co.'s sheerlegs. The Portuguese cruiser *Adamastor* arrived from Macao on the 29th ult. and saluted the port. She arrived at Macao from Europe on the 25th ult., having been sent to strengthen the Portuguese Far Eastern command. The *Adamastor* is a vessel of 1,993 metric tons displacement, and has 4,000 indicated horse power, giving her a speed of 18 knots. She has three-inch deck armour, and five-inch armour at the gun positions. Her guns consist of two 5.9 in., four 4.7, four 2.2, and four machine guns. She was built at Leghorn in 1896, and, by the way, was out Far East before a few years ago. The U.S.S. *Kentucky*, flying the flag of Rear-Admiral R. D. Evans, has left Hongkong probably to join the U.S. Far Eastern Squadron; the U.S.S. *Callao* has also made a departure from these shores. The German gun-boat *Luchs* has left for Canton. Comparatively few British war-ships are now in port. H.M. ships *Glory* and *Rinaldo* are at the Docks, and the *Algerine* is at the buoy. Small craft including the *Rambler*, *Waterwitch*, *Moorhen*, and destroyers are also in port.

The old Bay View Hotel will be re-occupied as a police station this month. Necessary alterations are at present being made in the building. When the hotel was used as a police station before—and since then—it has been dreaded as a hotbed of malaria. This was often thought the outcome of the cutting of the hills in the neighbourhood, but more than probably the dirty state of the foreshore adjoining the typhoon shelter has had something to do with the prevalence of fever.

The appointments are notified in the *Gazette* of Mr. T. Sercombe Smith as Acting Puisne Judge, of Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz as Acting First Magistrate, and of Mr. J. B. Kemp as Acting Second Magistrate, all to take effect from the departure of Mr. Justice A. G. Wise on leave; of Mr. P. N. H. Jones as Acting Director of Public Works, on the departure of the Hon. W. Chatham; and of Mr. T. A. Hammer as Acting Secretary and Mr. G. N. Orme as Acting Assistant Secretary of the Sanitary Board, on the departure of Mr. G. A. Woodcock.

On Thursday forenoon Blake Pier was the scene of great bustle on account of the large number of departures for England and Canada by the German mail *Preussen* and the *Empress of China*. As will be seen from the passenger lists appearing elsewhere, the number of those departing from Hongkong was abnormal for one day. These included more than a few Government servants with their wives, and several well-known ladies and gentlemen in the Colony. Both steamers were followed out of the Harbour by launches blowing their steam-whistles and firing off crackers in time-honoured fashion to speed the parting friend.

Dr. and Mrs. Fr. Krüger entertained a representative party of 240 persons to a *soirée*, at Club Germania on the 25th ult. the company being introduced to the German Admiral and officers. His Royal Highness Prince Adalbert was among the guests. Those present, also, included His Excellency Mr. F. H. May, C.M.G., the Officer Administering the Government, His Excellency Major-General Villiers, Hatton C.B., the General Officer Commanding, and His Excellency Sir G. Noel, Vice-Admiral and Commander-in-Chief. All the members of the German Club, British Army officers, and British and foreign Naval officers at Hongkong were also invited. Admiral Evans, U.S. flagship *Kentucky*, by the way an old Manila friend of Dr. Krüger, was there. In fact, everybody whom Mr. Krüger had come in contact with during his short stay so far at Hongkong were invited. Mr. Krüger's Consular colleagues, too, were among the guests. The entertainment opened with music, the programme being a long one. The guests then proceeded to the supper-room, where a full menu was gone through. Afterwards the following dance-list was commenced:—1. Waltz, 2. Waltz, 3. Lancers, 4. Polka, 5. Waltz, 6. Two-step, 7. Lancers, 8. Blumenwalzer; and three extras.

On the 26th ult. the Hongkong Amateur Dramatic Club signalled the conclusion of its season by giving a most successful at home and dance at the City Hall. "Fancy costume optional" was the statement on the invitation cards, and undoubtedly the A.D.C. acted wisely in not making fancy dress compulsory, for Hongkong is not quite equal to the task of providing such a large number of costumes as would be required for all the friends of the members of our popular dramatic club. Nevertheless, a large number of the gentlemen present appeared in disguise, among the most prominent being a Sikh, a French Chasseur, a Dancing Girl (male!), some Clowns and a Pierrette. The ladies, for the most part, elected not to veil their identities in any fancy dress. The staircase was prettily decorated with plants, and at the head of the stairs stood the statue of the Prince Regent, from His Excellency, the work of the brothers Bird. In the ballroom itself were exhibited some clever posters of different members of the A.D.C. Company, executed by Mrs. Pratt. The dance, which was certainly one of the most enjoyable of the season, was kept up well on to the verge of next morning. In fact we should not like to say how many minutes past midnight it was when the last strains of the band ceased.

COMMERCIAL.

SILK.

Messrs. A. R. Burkill & Son, in their Circular, dated 24th of March, state:—The home markets are quiet. Gold Kiling is quoted at 11/9 in London and in Lyons Fcs. 32.50. Raw Silk.—A small business has been transacted in Tsatlees. Yellow Silk.—A considerable business has been done chiefly in Mienchews and Mienyangs. The decline in exchange has considerably facilitated business. Hand Filatures.—The sudden demand for this Silk, reported in our last circular, has almost entirely ceased and very little business is now reported. Steam Filatures.—One or two small transactions only to report. Tussah Filatures.—continue to be in good demand, prices remain unchanged. Waste Silk.—Nothing doing. Prices asked for Gum Wastes are above Home ideas.

SUGAR.

The Kobe Market Report, which is dated March 15th, says:—More is doing in Hongkong Refined in the confident anticipation of an increase in the Consumption Tax. About 10,000 bags are reported sold at an advance of 25 sen over former figures. The market is steady. German Beet.—The same influence has affected values, which are still higher, but there is absolutely no stock in first hands. Russian is now quoted at Tls. 11.70. Osaka Refined.—The market shows an upward tendency. At the last Auction some 10,000 bags were re-disposed of at an advance of 30 at 35 sen over last sales.

RICE.

The quotations for rice in the Kobe Market according to the latest circular issued by the Chamber of Commerce at that port are as follows:—No. 1, cleaned, new crop, yen 6.90 to yen 7; No. 1 rough, yen 5.80 to yen 5.20.

OPIUM.

Quotations are:—Allowance net to 1 catty. 31st March.
Malwa New\$940 to \$980 per picul.
Malwa Old\$1000 to \$1040 do.
Malwa Older\$1,060 to \$1,100 do.
Malwa V. Old\$1,120 to \$1,160 do.
Persian fine quality. \$880 to — do.
Persian extra fine\$900 to — do.
Patna New\$1,132½ to — per chest.
Patna Old to — do.
Benares New\$1,302½ to — do.
Benares Old to — do.

COAL.

Since March 12th the arrivals of coal at Hongkong have been about 35,000 tons of Japan coal, all sold; 10,000 tons of Cardiff coal; 10,000 tons from Barry, and 2,500 from Hongay. 6,600 tons, sold, are expected from Japan by the *Foosheng* and *Oscar II*.

COTTON.

According to the latest Market Report of the Hiogo and Osaka Chamber of Commerce, the market has been generally active, and a fair business is reported. The quotations for American staple are still very much under home prices. There is no unsold stock of Chinese at present in the market, and the closing quotations are about Tls. 32 per picul for best, and Tls. 28 to Tls. 29 for inferior kinds. The prices for Indian Staple have advanced in sympathy with home market. Stocks in Osaka and Kobe were estimated on March 15th to be:—Chinese, 26,833 bales; Indian, 40,219 bales; American, 10,212 square bales and 5,612 round bales.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 25th March.—The prices ruling are as follows:—

COTTON YARN—

Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20, ...\$ 90.00 to \$128.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24, ... 114.00 to 120.00
" 22 to 24, ... 120.00 to 128.00
" 28 to 32, ... 136.00 to 142.00
" 38 to 42, ... 155.00 to 170.00
Reported sales 1,500 bales.

COTTON PIECE GOODS—

	per piece
Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.	2.30 to 2.40
7 lbs.	2.50 to 2.80
8.4 lbs.	3.50 to 4.25
9 to 10 lbs.	4.30 to 5.50
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.90 to 3.25
58 to 60 "	3.50 to 4.00
64 to 66 "	4.25 to 5.75
Fine 6.00 to 8.50	
Book-folds 5.00 to 8.00	

COTTON PIECE GOODS—

	per piece
Victoria Lawns—12 yards ...	0.85 to 1.75
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y.	2.30 to 2.80
7lbs. (32 ") ..	2.50 to 3.00
6lbs. (32 "), Mexs.	2.50 to 3.00
7lbs. (32 ") ..	3.10 to 3.30
8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.)	3.30 to 4.05
Drills, English—40 yds., 13½ " to 14 lbs. }	4.75 to 7.30

FANCY COTTONS—

Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 8 lbs. }	1.90 to 4.25
Brocades—Dyed	0.14 to 0.15
DAMASKS—	per yard
Chintzes—Assorted	0.9 to 0.22
Velvets—Black, 22 in.	0.26 to 0.45
Velveteens—18 in.	0.18 to 0.22

	per dozen
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk	0.75 to 1.00
WOOLLENS—	per yard
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops	0.75 to 2.50
German	0.60 to 0.85
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths	1.25 to 4.00

	per piece
Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-10 lbs.	7.80 to 9.50
Assorted	7.95 to 9.65
Camlets—Assorted	13.00 to 35.00
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches Assorted	12.50 to 21.00
Orleans—Plain, 31 in.	10.00 to —
Blankets—8 to 12 lbs.	4.50 to 9.50
Fine quality	1.25 to 1.85

METALS—

	per picul
Iron—Nail Rod	4.25 to —
Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.)	4.25 to —
Swedish Bar	4.30 to —
Small Round Rod	4.50 to —
Hoop ½ to 1½ in.	6.40 to —
Wire, 16/25 oz.	9.60 to —
Wire Rope, Old	3.00 to —

METALS—

	per picul
Lead, L.B. & Co. and Hole Chop	8.40 to —
Australian	8.40 to —
Yellow Metal—Muntz 14/20 oz.	39.00 to —
Vivian's 14/20 oz.	39.00 to —
Elliot's 14/20 oz.	39.00 to —
Composition Nails	61.00 to —
Japan Copper, Slabs	38.50 to —
Tin	77.50 to —

	per box.
Tin-Plates	6.80 to —
Steel ½ to ¾	6.20 to —
Quicksilver	155.00 to —

	per box
Window Glass	4.25 to —

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

The export of cotton yarns for the first fortnight in March from Kobe was 33,832 piculs, as against 22,705 piculs same time last year. Rates are gradually advancing.

HANKOW, 23rd March.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

	Per picul.
Cowhides, best selected	Tls. 32.50
Do. seconds	28.50
Buffalo hides, best selected	21.00
Goatskins, untanned (chiefly white colour), ..	58.00
Buffalo Horns (average 3lbs. each)	10.00
White China Grass (Wuchang and/or Poochi)	11.80
White China Grass (Sinshan and/or Chayu)	11.50
Green China Grass (Szechuen)	11.00
Jute	5.00
White Vegetable Tallow (Kinchow) ..	10.90
White Vegetable Tallow (Pingschow and/or Macheng)	10.80
White Vegetable Tallow (Mongyu) ..	12.00
Green Vegetable Tallow (Kiyu)	9.50
Animal Tallow	19.00
Gallnuts (usual shape)	20.50
Do. (Plum) do.	119.60
Tobacco, Tingschow	19.00
Black Bristles	21.25
Feathers (Grey and/or White Duck) ..	3.60
" " Wild Duck	4.70
Turmeric	7.80
Sesamum Seed	7.80
Sesamum Seed Oil	8.00
Vegetable Tallow Seed Oil	8.60
Wood Oil	
Tea Oil	

Per steamer *Ajar*, sailed on 21st March. For London:—745 half-chests tea @ Foochow (particulars unknown), 12 cases camphor, 250 bales broken cassia, 1,329 rolls mats & matting, 170 cases chinaware, 350 bales waste silk, 1,360 bales hemp, 21 cases shells, 13 cases human hair, 123 bales cane, 30 cases preserves, 150 casks preserves, 100 casks soy, 10 cases vermillion. For London and Glasgow:—100 casks ginger. For London and Hamburg:—400 bales cassia, 8 bales canes. For London, Hamburg and Antwerp:—100 bales canes. For London, Havre and Hamburg:—40 cases essential oil. For Manchester:—103 bales waste silk, 25 cases cotton. For Hamburg:—226 bales canes, 29 rolls matting, 200 bales feathers, 50 cases aniseed. For Antwerp:—18 bales feathers. For Smyrna:—75 cases cassia, 11 bales galangal. For Various Ports:—35 pkgs. sundries.

SHARE REPORT.

HONGKONG, 31st March, 1904.—Since date of our last the market has been somewhat more active and a fair business has been put through chiefly in Indos and China Sugars both of which have been in demand at rising rates. The market generally has ruled firmer with more buyers than has been the case for some time past.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai with a falling sterling exchange here, and a further rise in the London quotation of £1 (making the rate £62), the demand reported in our last at \$607½ was not met and the rate quickly rose to \$610, \$612½, \$615 and \$617½ without bringing out any but very small lots of shares. At time of writing the market is steady at \$617½ to \$620 with probable buyers. Nationals are still enquired for at \$35½ without bringing out any shares.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions continue steady at \$470 with a small business and close with buyers. China Traders have been placed at \$56. The Northern Insurances and Cantons remain quiet without any local business.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs have been placed at \$285 and Chinas at \$93, market closing steady for both stocks.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have ruled steady with buyers at \$26½ and no sellers except of very small lots. Indo-Chinas have been dealt in to some extent at \$88, \$88½, \$89 and \$90 for cash, and at \$91, \$92, \$93 and \$94 for May, June, July and August delivery; the market closes strong at \$90 to \$91 cash and at about equivalent rates forward. China and Manilas are somewhat easier with sellers at \$22 after small sales at that and \$22½. Douglasses have improved to \$34 without sales. Star Ferries have been placed at \$31 (old) and \$18½ (new) closing steady. Shell Transports after small sales at 19/- close with sellers.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have been in demand during the week and sales have taken place at \$109, \$110, \$112 and \$113 for cash; at \$115 to \$120 for September, \$119 to \$122 for December, and at equivalent rates for intermediate months. Market closes firm with buyers at \$113 to \$113½ cash. Luzons unchanged and without business.

MINING.—No business or change to report under this heading.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have ruled very steady at \$205 cash with sales; on time shares have been placed at \$215 and \$216 for August. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves have improved to \$93 without bringing any shares in the market. Farnhams have slightly improved in Shanghai to Tls. 142½.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands continue quiet with a small lot on offer at \$145 cash. Hongkong Hotels have changed hands at \$135 cash and Humphreys at \$10½. Nothing further to report under this heading.

COTTON MILLS.—No change or business to report.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Islands have been placed at \$25. China Borneos at \$8.10. Watsons at \$14, and Old Electrics at \$13. Other stocks under this heading have ruled quiet with no sales to report.

MEMOS.—Green Island Cement Co. annual general meeting on the 6th prox. Transfer books close on 2nd inst. Kowloon Land and Building Co., extraordinary general meeting on 9th prox. to alter certain articles of association of the Company.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	(\$617½, buyers { L'don, £62.
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares	28	\$35½, buyers
B. Shares	28	\$35½, buyers
Foun. Shares...	21	\$10.
Insurance—		
Union	\$100	\$470, sales&sellers
China Traders	\$25	\$56, sales & buyers
North China	25	Tls. 67½.
Yangtze	\$60	\$135.
Canton	\$50	\$175, sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$285, sales
China Fire	\$20	\$83, buyers
Steamship Coys.—		
H., Canton and M...	\$15	\$26½, buyers
Indo-China S. N. ...	210	\$90, buyers
China and Manila...	\$50	\$22, sellers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$34, buyers
Star Ferry	\$10	\$31, sales & buyers
Shell Transport and	\$5	\$18½, sales&sellers
Trading Co.	21	19/-, sellers
Do. pref. shares...	210	210, nominal
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$113, buyers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$10, sellers
Mining—		
Punjom	\$11	\$1, sellers
Do. Preference...	\$1	25 cents
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$500.
Raub's	18,10d.	\$7, sellers
Docks, Etc.—		
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$205.
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$93, buyers
New Amoy Dock ...	\$63	\$37½, sellers
S. C. F. Boyd & Co...	Tls. 100	Tls. 140½.
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$145, sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$35, sellers
WestPoint Building	\$50	\$53, sellers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$135, sales
Humphreys Estate {	\$10	\$10½.
S'hai Land Ins. Co., Ld.	Tls. 50	Tls. 107.
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 33, sellers
International ...	Tls. 75	Tls. 25.
Laou Kung Mow ...	Tls. 100	Tls. 32½.
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 170.
Hongkong	\$10	\$14½, sellers
Green Island Cement.	\$10	\$25, sales
China-Borneo Co., Ld.	\$12	\$8.10, sales & buy.
Watson & Co., A. S...	\$10	\$14, sales
Hongkong Electric {	\$10	\$13, buyers
Hongkong & C. Gas...	\$5	\$6½, sales & buyers
Hongkong Rope	210	\$140, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$50	{ \$142½, sellers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$47.
H. H. L. Tramways...	\$25	\$220, sellers
Hk. Steam Water-	\$100	\$300.
Boat Co., Ld.	\$10	\$15½, sellers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$12½.
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$40, sellers
Bell's Asbestos E. A...	12/6	\$5, sellers
United Asbestos	\$4	\$9, buyers
Do	\$10	\$210, buyers
Tebrau Planting Co...	\$5	\$1, sellers
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	\$8.75.
Watkins Ld.	\$10	\$6½, ex div.,
China Light & Power		
Co., Ld.	\$10	\$5.
Powell, Ld.	\$10	\$9½.
Shanghai and Hong-		
kong Dyeing and	\$50	\$50.
Cleaning Co., Ld. }		
Canton, Hongkong Ice	\$10	\$10, nominal
Cigar Companies—		
Alhambra Limited.	\$500	\$200.
Phippine Tobacco }		
Trust Co., Ld. }	\$10	\$10, buyers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co., in their Share Report for the week ending 24th March, state:—A fair business has been done during the past week particularly in Farnhams and Langkats, but purchases in the latter stock have been mostly to cover short sales made for the approaching settlement. Very considerable preparation has been made for this settlement, and there seems every prospect of it being an easy one. The T. T. rate to day is 2/6. Banks.—H. & S. Banks.—Nominal at 605. Latest London quotation £39. Marine and Fire Insurance.—No business reported. Shipping.—Indos have remained fairly steady during the week, the market opening with sales

for July at Tls. 65. A sale is reported at 66, which is supposed to be in excess of the market rate. Sales for April have taken place at Tls. 63 and for March settlement at Tls. 62½. The market closes quiet with sellers for March at the latter rate. Shells.—Buyers are wanted for Shell Transport and Trading Co. Shares. Shanghai Tugs have been placed at Tls. 50 and Prefence at 48. There are sellers at these rates. Docks & Wharves.—The market opened at Tls. 141 and 142 for cash and the March Settlement, and rates have been fairly well maintained, although the market closes easier, shares being obtainable at 140½ for the Settlement. June shares have been placed at Tls. 146 and July at 117, 146, 146½, and 146, closing with sales for that month at Tls. 145½. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves. Sales have been effected at 180, 182½, for the March Settlement and Tls. 190. The dividend of Tls. 6 was paid on the 23rd inst. The market is now quoted sellers at 185 ex this dividend. Yangtze Wharves and Godowns. A transaction is reported privately at Tls. 200. Sugar Cos.—No business reported. Mining.—The only business reported is in Weihaiwei Golds at 17½ and Kaiping Bearer Scrip at Tls. 6. Lands.—Shanghai are offering at Tls. 107. Humphrey's Estates are wanted at \$10.25 and \$10.50. Industrial.—No business reported in cotton stocks. Ices have been placed at Tls. 17, and Shanghai Gas shares at Tls. 110. Maatschappij, &c., in Langkats. The market opened on the 17th with sales for cash and March delivery at Tls. 285, the cash market remained steady at this rate till yesterday when transactions were reported at Tls. 282½. The forward rates on 18/19th were quoted for April at Tls. 290 and June 300. On the 21st June shares were placed at 298½ and 300, and again at the same rates on the 22nd. On the 23rd, May delivery shares were placed at 290, and July at 300. The market closes weak with sellers at these rates. Sumatras have been placed at Tls. 53. Stores and Hotels.—Astor Hotels opened with sales at Tls. 33 and 33½ and rose to 35. Shares are obtainable at the latter rate. The reports concerning the Hotel's working are excellent. Miscellaneous.—Telephones have been placed at Tls. 66, and Shanghai Electrics at \$26. Debentures.—No business reported.

EXCHANGE.

SATURDAY, 2nd April.

ON LONDON.—

Telegraphic Transfer	1/9½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/9½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/9½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/9½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/9½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/9½

ON PARIS.—

Bank Bills, on demand	223
Credits 4 months' sight	227½

ON GERMANY.—

On demand	181½
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ON NEW YORK.—

Bank Bills, on demand	43½
Credits, 60 days' sight	44

ON BOMBAY.—Telegraphic Transfer

Bank, on demand	131½
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ON CALCUTTA.—Telegraphic Transfer

Bank, on demand	132
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ON SHANGHAI.—Bank, at sight

Private, 30 days' sight	72½
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ON YOKOHAMA.—On demand

On demand	87½
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ON MANILA.—On demand

On demand	nominal
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ON SINGAPORE.—On demand

On demand	nominal
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ON BATAVIA.—On demand

On demand	106½
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ON HAIPHONG.—On demand

On demand	1½ p.c. pm.
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ON SAIGON.—On demand

On demand	1 p.c. pm.
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ON BANGKOK.—On demand

On demand	62½
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SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate

Gold Leaf, 100 fine, per tael	\$11.15
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BAR SILVER, per oz.

per oz.	25½
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FREIGHTS.

Per Conference Steamers. To London and Northern Continental ports:—Tea 52/6 per ton of 40 cubic feet. General cargo 52/6 per ton of 40 cubic feet. Seeds 47/6 per ton of 20 cwt. To Marseilles and Havre:—General 48/- net, per ton of 40 cubic feet. Seeds, 47/6 net, per ton of 20 cwt. To New York (Overland):—Tea 1½ G\$ cents per lb. gross. To New York, via Suez:—30/- per ton of 40 cubic feet. To Shanghai:—Tea, Tails 1.80 per ton of 13 half-chests. To Shanghai:—General, Tails 1.80 per ton weight or measurement.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

ARRIVALS.

March—

25, Anamba, Danish str., from Bangkok.
25, Benalder, British str., from London.
25, Bengal, British str., from Bombay.
25, Chiyuen, Chinese str., from Canton.
25, Gaea, German str., from Saigon.
25, Hailan, French str., from Pakhoi.
25, Hongwan I, British str., from Singapore.
25, Mausang, British str., from Sandakan.
25, Monmouthshire, British str., from London.
25, Roseley, British str., from Penarth.
25, Signal, German str., from Moji.
25, Wongkoi, German str., from Bangkok.
26, Amara, British str., from Saigon.
26, Antenor, British str., from Liverpool.
26, Chenan, British str., from Manila.
26, China, American str., from San Francisco.
26, Foosling, British str., from Moji.
26, Glenturret, British str., from London.
26, Hailoong, British str., from Swatow.
26, Loongsang, British str., from Manila.
26, Loyal, German str., from Sourabaya.
26, Meefoo, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
26, Rubi, British str., from Manila.
26, Triumph, German str., from Amoy.
27, Bimendo, American str., from Iloilo.
27, Haitan, British str., from Swatow.
27, Linan, British str., from Chinkiang.
27, Mellan, German str., from Singapore.
27, Rajaburi, German str., from Bangkok.
27, Tydeus, British str., from Tacoma.
28, Borg, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
28, Broid, Norwegian str., from Saigon.
28, C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
28, Hue, French str., from Haiphong.
28, Lightning, British str., from Calcutta.
28, Machew, German str., from Bangkok.
28, Pakling, British str., from Shanghai.
28, Progress, German str., from Hoihow.
28, Quangnam, French str., from Iloilo.
28, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
28, Whampoa, British str., from Shanghai.
29, Adamastor, Portuguese corv., from Macao.
29, Glenartney, British str., from London.
29, Java, British str., from Shanghai.
29, Kennebec, British str., from Shanghai.
29, Kohsichang, German str., from Bangkok.
29, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Canton.
29, Kwongsang, British str., from Canton.
29, Preussen, German str., from Yokohama.
29, Thales, British str., from Coast Ports.
29, M. Rickmers, Ger. str., from Bangkok.
30, Bourbon, French str., from Saigon.
30, Chihli, British str., from Tientsin.
30, China, German str., from Saigon.
30, Din, Portuguese gunboat, from Macao.
30, Frithjof, Norwegian str., from Tamsui.
30, Hunan, British str., from Tientsin.
30, Mathilde, German str., from Swatow.
30, Prinz Heinrich, Ger. str., from Bremen.
31, Abyssinia, German str., from Shanghai.
31, Alacrity, British d.-v., from Mirs Bay.
31, Amphitrite, British cruiser, from Mirs Bay.
31, Blenheim, British cruiser, from Mirs Bay.
31, Centurion, British cruiser, from Mirs Bay.
31, Cressy, British cruiser, from Mirs Bay.
31, Ocean, British battleship, from Mirs Bay.
31, Sirius, British cruiser, from Mirs Bay.
31, Vengeance, British b'ship, from Mirs Bay.
31, Chowfa, German str., from Bangkok.
31, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
31, Huron, British str., from Manila.
31, Jacob Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Moji.
31, Oopack, British str., from Liverpool.
31, Oscar II., Norwegian str., from Moji.
31, Teesta, British str., from Rangoon.
31, Ujina, British str., from Karatsu.

March—

DEPARTURES.

25, Annam, French str., for Shanghai.
25, Apenrade, German str., for Hoihow.
25, Goodwin, British str., for Moji.
25, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
25, Ichang, British str., for Shanghai.
25, Kwongsang, British str., for Canton.
25, Ningchow, British str., for Pacific Ports.
25, S. V. Langkut, Dutch str., for Palembang.
26, Atholl, British str., for Portland.
26, Bengal, British str., for Shanghai.
26, Cymbeline, British str., for Newcastle.
26, Hopsang, British str., for Saigon.
26, Kowloon, German str., for Shanghai.
26, Needles, British str., for Diamond Island.

26, Ovid, British str., for Kutchinotzu.
 26, Silesia, Austrian str., for Trieste.
 26, Simla, British str., for Europe.
 26, Taiyuan, British str., for Yokohama.
 26, Tyr, Norwegian str., for Hongay.
 26, Zafiro, British str., for Manila.
 27, Anglin, German str., for Hoihow.
 27, Borneo, German str., for Sandakan.
 27, Elisa, Rickmers, Ger. str., for Swatow.
 27, Hailong, British str., for Tamsui.
 27, Keongwai, German str., for Bangkok.
 27, Laertes, British str., for Saigon.
 27, Pronto, Norwegian str., for Chefoo.
 27, Roseley, British str., for Nagasaki.
 27, Salfordia, British str., for Moji.
 27, Woosung, British str., for Shanghai.
 28, Albion, British battleship, for Mirs Bay.
 28, Amphitrite, British cruiser, for Mirs Bay.
 28, Antenor, British str., for Shanghai.
 28, Blenheim, British cruiser, for Mirs Bay.
 28, Centurion, British cruiser, for Mirs Bay.
 28, Chenan, British str., for Manila.
 28, Chessy, British cruiser, for Mirs Bay.
 28, Hongwan I, British str., for Amoy.
 28, Meefoo, Chinese str., for Canton.
 28, Ocean, British battleship, for Mirs Bay.
 28, Sirius, British cruiser, for Mirs Bay.
 28, Suevia, German str., for Yokohama.
 28, Talbot, British cruiser, for Mirs Bay.
 28, Tjipanas, Dutch str., for Shanghai.
 28, Vengeance, British ship, for Mirs Bay.
 29, Chiyuen, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 29, Devawongse, German str., for Bangkok.
 29, Glory, British battleship, for Mirs Bay.
 29, Hailan, French str., for Hoihow.
 29, Haitan, British str., for Coast Ports.
 29, Kentucky, U.S. battleship, for New York.
 29, Loongmoon, German str., for Shanghai.
 29, Luchs, German gunboat, for Tintau.
 29, Lyndhurst, British bge., for Sourabaya.
 29, Nanshan, U.S. collier, for Japan.
 29, Pakling, British str., for London.
 29, Paknam, German str., for Bangkok.
 29, Perla, British str., for Kobe.
 29, Shansi, British str., for Shanghai.
 29, Whampoa, British str., for Canton.
 29, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
 30, Anamba, Danish str., for Bangkok.
 30, Daphne, German str., for Kobe.
 30, Enma Luyken, German str., for Hoihow.
 30, Empr. of China, British str., for V'couver.
 30, Hangchow, British str., for Shanghai.
 30, Hue, French str., for Haiphong.
 30, Java, British str., for London.
 30, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 30, Kwongsang, British str., for Shanghai.
 30, Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
 30, Preussen, German str., for Europe.
 30, Signal, German str., for Swatow.
 30, Suisang, British str., for Calcutta.
 30, Triumph, German str., for Swatow.
 31, Attaka, British str., for Canton.
 31, Benalder, British str., for Japan.
 31, Chihli, British str., for Canton.
 31, Fausang, British str., for Saigon.
 31, Glenturret, British str., for Shanghai.
 31, Kashing, British str., for Shanghai.
 31, Mathilde, German str., for Hoihow.
 31, Monmouthshire, Brit. str., for Yokohama.
 31, Monterey, U.S. monitor, for Canton.
 31, Prinz Heinrich, Ger. str., for Shanghai.
 31, Rubi, British str., for Manila.
 31, Tientsin, British str., for Shanghai.
 31, Wongkoi, German str., for Bangkok.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

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 Messrs. Brockmader, Willard Lyon, H. Shep-
 pard, F. Perry, A. M. Siebert, M. da Castro,
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 Mrs. Ruhstrat and 3 children, Mrs. Lutkens,
 Count de Lichtervelde, and Mr. O. Middleton;
 for London, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Langman and
 3 children, Mr. and Mrs. J. Symons, Mr. and
 Mrs. C. W. Thomas and infant, Mr., Mrs. and
 Miss Turner and child, Capt. F. E. Everett,
 Messrs. J. K. Milligan, H. Roxburg, E. Derrick,
 and James Logan; for Yokohama, from London,
 Mr. F. H. Oldis.

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 E. Pellet, Richards, and Hutton; from Mar-

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 and child, Mr. and Mrs. E. Mirow, Major J. M.
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 Mrs. and Miss Langman and 3 children, Mr. and
 Mrs. J. Symons, Mr. and Mrs. Beauchamp, Mr.
 and Mrs. C. W. Thomas and infant, Mr., Mrs.
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 Mrs. W. D. Laing, Miss Laing and 3 children,
 and Mr. John Aas.

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 M. M. Xavier, and S. Neshegori.

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